

Community police chief retires early

Supt David Webb, who runs the successful community policing scheme at Handsworth, Birmingham, has announced that he is retiring early because he feels many of his colleagues have no sympathy with what he is doing. At the same time, the independent report into the riots at Moss Side, Manchester, was published. Contrary to pre-publication speculation, the report contains considerable praise for the police action and for the chief constable.

Page 2 and back page

Repatriation plan 'gross insult'

A call by the Conservative Monday Club for a £500m programme to repatriate 100,000 coloured people a year from Britain was described as a gross insult by leaders of the West Indian and Asian communities. The 10-point scheme suggests that people should be offered £5,000 or more to return to their "home" countries. Page 4

Bad week for Mitterrand

The Socialist Government of President Mitterrand predictably survived an opposition censure motion, but was forced to explain the inconsistencies of its economic policy. Within the space of a week the franc has been put on the economy. Page 6

Docherty lied, jury told

A jury at the Central Criminal Court has been told that it must decide whether Mr Tommy Docherty, the former Manchester United manager who is on trial for perjury, was lying, confused or honestly trying to remember when he denied knowing about two contract clauses during a libel action he had brought against a former player. Page 3

Knockout in title fight

Neville Meade, aged 33, a Jamaican from Swansea, won the British heavyweight championship at Aston Villa sports centre last night when he knocked out the defending champion, Gordon Ferris, from Inisfallen, after two minutes 35 seconds of the first round. Ferris had held the title since March. Page 18

Shipyards are halted again

Most of Britain's shipyards were idled yesterday because of the third one-day strike by manual workers in protest at the closure of the Robb Caledon yard at Dundee. Officials from Acas continued their attempts to persuade British Shipbuilders and more than 45,000 striking employees together. Page 13

Stewart offered £3m to return

Jackie Stewart, a former world champion motor racing driver, is thinking over an offer of £3m to return to formula one grand prix driving. James Hunt, another former champion, is also considering a comeback after an offer of £2.6m. Page 19

Woolworth buys out Dodge City

Woolworth, which announced a pre-tax loss of £14.8m to last July, is to buy the United States Dodge City group of 25 do-it-yourself centres for £20.1m. The deal will net Mr Richard Northcott, Dodge City founder, £17m before tax. Page 13

BBC's Robert McKenzie dies

Professor Robert McKenzie, the former School of Economics politics teacher and the distinguished BBC commentator on politics, died in University College Hospital, London, last night. He was famous for his swingometer. He was 64.

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Letters: On Tory disquiet, from Mr Patrick Cockfield, MP, and others; tax on wage increases, from Professor Richard Poyles; university cuts, from the Headmaster of Clifton College

Leading articles: The Conservative Party

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Fashion by Suzi Menkes; Alan Hamilton meets Paul Theroux; Mrs Thatcher's war on economic ignorance, by D. C. Hague; Peter Lennon looks at the conflict over the Nobel peace prize

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Harry Wiltshire, Mr C. J. Wagstaff

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3,000 jobs and three plants will go in new BL cuts

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

BL Cars announced last night that nearly 3,000 more jobs are to go with the closure next year of three motor and component manufacturing plants. The closures bring to an estimated 68,000 the number of jobs cut from the former British Leyland empire carried out since Sir Michael Edwards took over as chairman of the state firm four years ago. BL Cars, now employs about the same number of manual workers as its chief private sector rival, Ford Motors.

Union leaders greeted the news with dismay during four hours of talks with the company's management at a London hotel which took place as they prepared for an all-out pay strike.

News of the closures was given by Mr Geoffrey Armstrong, director of employee relations for BL Cars, who also warned the unions against industrial action they are threatening from November 1 over a 17.5 per cent wage demand.

The closure programme involves 1,500 jobs at the company's plant in Speke, Merseyside, and another 430 at the Alford-Alder truck axle manufacturers in Hemel Hempstead.

Another BL subsidiary, the profitable Renault special components factory, is to be sold off to the private sector.

BL, which is being kept afloat by a £900m government subsidy designed to take the company into profitability in the mid-1980s, recorded a £225m loss in the first half of the current financial year.

The unions have put in a claim for £20-a-week increases across the board, and management has replied with a 3.8 per cent offer which the unions have rejected.

Union leaders and shop stewards are now asking their members to endorse an all-out strike in three weeks time, but Sir Michael is expected to intervene with a direct appeal to his employees not to take industrial action that could "break" the firm.

Mr Grenville Hawley, chairman of the BL trade union, said last night that the closures would not halt the strike momentum over pay. "It will not alter our position one iota," he insisted. "But the lads will be considering further closures as another nail in the coffin when they meet."

But if the mood at one of the biggest plants—Canley at Coventry—last week had been any guide, then it was clear that

there would be a dispute on BL's wages offer, he added. Union leaders were at pains to explain to members last night that closure dates for the three factories fell in the last quarter of 1982, whereas their pay rise was due at the beginning of next month.

In a letter to all employees in BL Cars, the company said its action to reduce "excess facilities" was being taken to minimise the effects of the recession and other economic factors on the BL recovery plan.

There must be further rationalisation to reduce fixed costs. Union leaders had therefore been told of the closure of two plants next year. Speke No 1 factory, which mainly manufactures body assemblies for the Mini, is to shut and its work will be transferred to Longbridge, Birmingham, where small assembly already takes place.

Coventry Engines' plant, which carries out machining and assembly operations on a wide range of components will shut and its work will be transferred elsewhere.

The company says: "Although both plants have a good record, given the overall level of under-utilisation, the harsh economic facts of high fixed costs have led to the conclusion that there is no alternative to their closure. The saving in costs in a full year will be more than £8m."

BL was also closing Alford and Alder, the Hemel Hempstead axle plant, so as to move its production to other factories from late 1982.

The Resbury Components factory, employing about 450, who make a wide range of "low technology automotive components" is regarded as outside BL's mainstream activity, so is being sold to a consortium consisting of members of the company's existing management, who will ensure continued employment at the plant.

BL insists that employees affected by the three factory closures will receive the usual redundancy compensation subject to there being "cooperation" in the orderly transfer of work to other plants.

There is a reference to the possible threat of blacking of work to be transferred from factories facing closure to those regarded as enjoying long-term viability.

Yesterday there was no threat of such action from the unions, who hope that the transfer of work will prevent prospective job losses at those other factories.

Woolwich abolishes mortgage differential

By Michael Prest

The Woolwich Equitable, one of the country's five biggest building societies, yesterday softened the blow of last Friday's 2 point rise in the basic mortgage rate by announcing the abolition of its differential lending rate under which borrowers of more than £15,000 pay more than the basic rate. The Woolwich is the first society to make such a move.

From November 1, most borrowers from the Woolwich will pay the new basic rate of 15 per cent. A householder with a £30,000 mortgage who would have paid 17 per cent extra or a total of 1 1/2 per cent under the previous differential rate structure therefore effectively faces increase of only 1 per cent.

This works out at £387 a month instead of £421.80 if the borrower paid 1 1/2 per cent over the new basic rate for a 25-year mortgage. But other leading societies showed no signs last night of hurrying to follow Woolwich, which in the spring of 1980 was the last big society to introduce differential rates.

The Halifax, the country's biggest building society, said it had no immediate plans to

abolish differential rates, although it will be reviewing the position. The Nationwide's response was similar.

But the Abbey National, another of the top five, was more definite. Mr Barry Ellis, the society's secretary said: "We believe in the principle of the differential structure, which I think we shall try to keep it."

Some societies indicated, however, that they will revise their differentials in the light of the increase in base rate. The Alliance said that it will cut its differential as much as 1 percentage point, and the Provincial is expected to announce changes to its rates today.

Mr Donald Kirkham, deputy chief general manager of the Woolwich, said: "We like to treat all borrowers broadly alike." Rising house prices meant that borrowers, particularly first time borrowers, were penalised by the higher rates.

He said that the financial position of the society—a non-profit making institution, like all building societies—was strong enough for it to forgo the £5.5m revenue it would have received had differentials been maintained.

Solidarity demands results by next week

From Dossa Trevisan, Warsaw, Oct 12

Solidarity's newly elected leaders announced today that they are ready to open negotiations with Poland's Communist Government. But they warned the authorities that the free union will launch a national protest if the talks fail to bring results by October 22.

The Communist Central Committee meeting, due to begin on Wednesday, has been postponed until Friday. Obviously, the party has to make up its mind on how to answer Solidarity's demands, which are seen by hardline Communists as transgressing permitted limits and offering an alternative to the party's political programme.

The Central Committee seems to be in a predicament. The Communist Party lacks popular trust and still has to win credibility whereas Solidarity, with

a membership of 10 million, enjoys undisputed support.

At its first meeting today since the end of the union congress the presidium of Solidarity called on regional branches to refrain from all protest action until the National Committee—the larger committee of Solidarity with 107 members—meets on October 22.

Thus, the uncertainty remains but a period of negotiation will be ahead. For the moment at least, it means a period of relative truce with each side ready to resume talks. Solidarity, however, has not responded to the Government's proposal to join a permanent commission to work out joint action for an economic programme with domestic market supplies in the foreground.

Market supplies continue to

cause agitation and in Piotrkow Trybunalski south-west of Warsaw a strike alert has been proclaimed for the whole region with the prospect of a warning strike in several dozen factories unless agreement, reached with a Government commission, is followed up by immediate improvements in supplies.

Those are said to be so short that the rationing system has broken down and coupons have become worthless, especially at butchers' shops. The immediate problem for Communist Party and Solidarity alike is how Poland can survive the winter.

The Soviet-backed media continue to attack Solidarity. The Hungarians have now withdrawn from what had seemed to be greater willingness to establish some sort of relationship.



Inscrutable contemplation: Members of the Japanese Government business mission touring Europe waiting at Ironmongers' Hall in London for transport to continue their journey to Paris. Report, page 14. (Photograph by Brian Harris).

Acid Soviet Note to US over Egypt

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Oct 12

In an extremely tough official statement handed to the American Chargé d'Affaires yesterday, the Soviet Union accused the United States of gross interference in Egypt's internal affairs, and said this seriously affected Soviet security.

The statement, made public in the early hours of this morning and splashed across the front page of *Pravda*, accused the Americans of acting illegally in sending warships to Egyptian waters, alerting the Marines and the Rapid Deployment Force and virtually ordering the Egyptians what to do.

It said the Soviet Government "resolutely condemned American attempts at interfering in any way in Egypt's internal affairs. What is happening around Egypt cannot be seen as the interests of the Soviet Union's security, and it will attentively follow the development of events."

Emphasising the seriousness of the warning, Mr Georgy Korniyenko, the Deputy Foreign Minister, summoned Mr Warren Zimmerman, the American Chargé d'Affaires, to the Foreign Ministry on a Sunday afternoon to give him the statement in the order of work.

A State Department spokesman yesterday dismissed the Soviet charges as "hogwash." "We do not meddle in the internal affairs of sovereign countries; we do have close relations with Egypt," the spokesman said.

The Soviet statement said America's actions were incompatible with recognised norms of international behaviour. "It was perfectly clear that no internal event in any country could justify such behaviour by a foreign power."

It asked whether the United States likes or dislikes this or that event in Egypt, that does not give it a right to put pressure on that country, on its people and finally from the first hours to interfere in developments there."

Moscow said American actions were increasing tension in the whole area—something the Russians said did not tally with American statements about the need to show restraint in international relations and not interfere in other countries' affairs. The reference is obviously to Poland.

The Russians gave a chance at least to reestablish relations with Egypt and break the country's close links with America. They said the statement shows they are not going to let this opportunity slip.

The statement hinted that the Russians are ready to take the matter to the United Nations, where they will make much of "American Diktat" in Egypt. This would certainly blunt the edge of the Reagan Administration's warnings of Soviet intervention in Poland, which have embarrassed Moscow considerably.

To the historically minded, the linking of the crises in Poland and Egypt are strikingly reminiscent of the situation in the world 25 years ago. The Russians gave the West blunt warnings of Soviet military reaction over the Suez crisis. And a few weeks later while the West was preoccupied with the turmoil in Egypt, Soviet forces moved into Hungary.

Sadat unprotected, page 6

Four Tory MPs see danger of defection

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Blackpool

As Mrs Thatcher arrived in Blackpool last night for what Tories agree is a critical annual conference, Mr Edward Heath's warning that the party's supporters were being alienated by the Government's management of the economy was echoed in a letter to *The Times* from four backbench Tory MPs.

Mr Heath himself is now expected to be called to speak in the main economic debate tomorrow. The conference organizers have accepted his challenge.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the party chairman, said last night that if Mr Heath applied to speak at conference he would be welcomed as any former Prime Minister would be welcomed to take part in the debate of his choosing.

Mr Heath had indicated that he did not expect to be allowed to speak in the main debate, though he intends to speak at a fringe meeting tomorrow in any event.

Calling for policies which would be benevolent rather than hostile to private industry, the four MPs say that the fact must be faced, after two and a half years of Conservative government, that "all our natural supporters... have legitimate cause for being deeply disillusioned."

The four, who include Mr Charles Morrison, MP for Devises and a vice-chairman of the backbenchers' senior committee, the 1922 Committee, appear to discount in advance the appeals which the Prime Minister and her senior colleagues can on past form be sure of receiving from the party's representatives during the next few days.

They say: "We know from our own experience in our own constituencies, that platitudes about keeping on to the end of the road, and even standing ovations that might greet them, are no substitute for the sort of changes that... are urgently needed."

Unless there is a more sensitive appreciation of the economic facts of life, as known to millions of individual voters,

Blackpool police are mounting their biggest security operation yet during the conference, in the wake of Saturday's IRA bomb attack at Chelsea Barracks in London (Sara Bender writes).

A police spokesman said there was extra security as a result of the bomb, although security was always tight during the conference of the governing party.

Livingstone says IRA are not criminals or lunatics

By Staff Reporters

As two men were being questioned by detectives yesterday about the IRA bomb explosion in Chelsea, London, Mr Ken Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, again took the side of the IRA.

Talking to undergraduate members of the Cambridge Tory Reform Group, he said of the terrorists responsible for the attack: "They are not criminals or lunatics running about. That is to misrepresent them."

Mr Livingstone told a student who pressed him for his views on IRA terrorism: "Nobody supports what happened last Saturday in London. But what about stopping it happening? As long as we are in Ireland people will be letting off bombs in London."

"I can see that we are a colonial power holding down a colony. For the rest of time violence will recur again and again as long as we are in Ireland. People in Northern Ireland see themselves as subject peoples. If they were just criminals and psychopaths they could be crushed. But they have a motive force which they think is good, offered that if concessions which had now been

made had been made last April would have not have died and he claimed that if a referendum were held in Northern Ireland tomorrow people there would vote two to one in favour of Britain getting out."

The men being questioned last night at Paddington Green police station, who were detained during a number of overnight swoops, were not thought to have been actively involved in the attack.

Mr Nosh Field, aged 61, a widow of Pimlico, who was killed in the bomb attack died from a six-inch nail through the heart, Westminster Coroner's Court was told yesterday.

Professor Keith Simpson, a pathologist, said death was from "internal haemorrhaging due to the disruption of the heart by the explosive penetration of a six-inch nail."

The inquest was adjourned for six weeks at the request of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad.

Today the squad plans to issue photofit pictures of the four or five members of the IRA gang responsible for the attack, believed by police still to be in London. A huge reward from witnesses has enabled them to build up detailed descriptions of the men whose bomb blast outside Chelsea barracks left Mrs Field dead and 40 other people injured, eight seriously.

Police throughout the country are now on a full alert for a new mainland IRA bombing campaign. Commander Michael Richards, head of the anti-terrorist squad, said: "In the past if we have had one explosion this has generally been followed by one or two more."

A man was shot dead while watching television in his home in the Ardoyne district of Belfast last night (The Press Association reports). Neighbours named him as Robert Ewing, aged 34, a married man with three children.

Other Ulster news, page 2

We will survive, says cleared De Lorean

From Craig Seton and Christopher Thomas, Belfast

Mr John De Lorean, cleared by a police inquiry of any criminal conduct, said yesterday that his Belfast-based sports car company would survive despite a week of lies and accusations which had virtually destroyed the enterprise. He repeated that there was a conspiracy to bring down the firm.

The Director of Public Prosecutions announced that the police inquiry, launched after Mr Nicholas Winterton, Conservative MP for Macclesfield, revealed alleged financial irregularities to the Prime Minister, had found no evidence to support any allegations of criminal conduct on the part of Mr De Lorean or the company.

The DPP announcement was released as Mr De Lorean flew to Belfast to reassure his 2,500 employees at the factory in Dunmurry on the outskirts of Belfast about the company's future. He said: "We are here to stay. What you see is a terrible crime against this company and we are proud of it. Nothing is going to stop us."

Mr De Lorean said that the company would be filing libel writs today against a number of people who were the most serious perpetrators "of this terrible crime against this company." The people concerned would not be named until today.

Asked why anyone should want to damage the company he replied: "There must be more to it. Why did it all happen suddenly when it looked like we were going to make the grade?"

He was asked if other people in the automotive industry might be responsible. "I do not know. It is a distinct possibility. It may even be a conspiracy."

He told a press conference in the firm's canteen: "You never get all the black paint off once it is on you. That is a serious problem. I want to put the company back to where it was a week ago before the lies emerged."

Greeting the news from the DPP with relief but no surprise he said again that the alleg-

tions had always been "untrue, unfounded and nonsense." And he refuted them in detail.

In London Mr Winterton welcomed the fact that no criminal conduct had been found but said he would seek to raise the issue again in the Commons "because there are questions that still needed to be answered."

He spoke last night of the possible misuse of government funds and the accountability of the company which has received £80m of state aid. He denied that he had ever made allegations himself about the company or any derogatory comments about Mr De Lorean.

The DPP's statement said: "Should any evidence of a criminal offence subsequently come to the attention of the DPP he would give it consideration."

Sir Thomas Herberington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, said he was satisfied that no evidence had emerged to support any allegations of criminal conduct on the part of Mr De Lorean or the company.

He had originally asked the police to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the allegations. Police officers had interviewed and obtained certain documents from Mr Winterton and had also met Miss Marian Gibson, a former secretary with the company, and had conducted inquiries in the United States.

Mr De Lorean described Miss Gibson as a troubled, disturbed typist who with a "unemployed writer" Mr John Lisner, had attempted to sell a sensational story to the *News of the World*. The story was not published because it could not be supported.

Earlier, Mr De Lorean, in an interview with *The Times*, criticized Mr William Hadden, a former communications director with the company, who had written a memorandum which insinuated that some of the company's expenditures were irregular.

Mr Hadden had spent too much time in New York and not enough in Belfast, Mr De Lorean said.

Continued on back page, col 3

Time in Tune

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GARRARD
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Docherty denies telling lies in High Court

Tommy Docherty, the football manager, lied while giving evidence at the High Court, it was alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Paul Purnell, for the prosecution, said Mr Docherty told "deliberate lies" on oath to persuade the jury that he was a faithful employee and served the best interests of Manchester United Football Club.

Mr Docherty, charged in his full name of Thomas Henderson Docherty, denied two charges of perjury.

Mr Purnell told the jury that Mr Docherty was "a person that some of you may know", and said the jury would be looking at words copied from a High Court action.

"The prosecution say that during a High Court action in 1978 Mr Docherty told lies while giving evidence in respect of that matter. As you would expect, while giving evidence he was a witness upon oath. In particular, he gave evidence which was untrue evidence on two important instances."

Mr Purnell went on: "At the root of that High Court action was a question raised by the defence in that case, as to the proper good conduct of Mr Docherty while he was a manager for the Manchester United Football Club."

"In the course of that action, where the conduct of Mr Docherty as manager of Manchester United was the issue, the prosecution allege that he told those lies for a particular purpose. They were done for the purpose of persuading the jury that Mr Docherty was a faithful employee and served the best interests of that football club. Whereas, in fact, as the prosecution hope to prove, they were deliberate lies in order to give the civil proceedings a tone to which they were not justified."

Mr Docherty, aged 53, is accused of committing perjury in November, 1978, in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court while giving evidence as plaintiff in an action against Mr William Morgan and Granada Television.

He is alleged to have falsely sworn that he told the former footballer, Denis Law, that he would discuss the player's free transfer with the board of Manchester United, and that Mr Law did not seem disturbed or surprised by the news.

Mr Docherty is also alleged to have falsely sworn that he did not know of a term in a contract between Bournemouth Football Club and Manchester United under which United would pay a further sum to Bournemouth when a striker, Ted McDougall, had scored 20 goals, until United were sued for breach of contract.

Mr Purnell told the jury of a television programme called "Kick Off", broadcast by Granada Television in which prominent people in the football world "expressed their opinions plainly".

"On January 14, 1977, the programme included an interview with Willie Morgan, a former Manchester United player. The spark which started the whole of the television programme was eventually led to this court were remarks which he made about Docherty."

"He said that Docherty was the worst football manager there had ever been, and he described parts of Docherty's behaviour as a manager which were clearly deprecating the way he had been the football manager at Manchester United."

Mr Purnell said Mr Morgan's words were bound seriously to affect Mr Docherty's standing as a football manager.

The trial continues today.

RAF fly in danger zone, say farmers

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

The Ministry of Defence is to be told that RAF pilots are disregarding instructions that prohibit flying within a two-mile radius of one of Britain's oldest nuclear power stations.

The complaints are being made by farmers whose flocks of hardy Welsh sheep roam the sparse mountain pastures near Trawsfynydd power station, in North Wales.

According to the farmers and their shepherds, the supersonic aircraft pass close to the station as they practise the manoeuvres that would take them below enemy radar in wartime. Thundering out of the low cloud, the high-technology aircraft, according to witnesses, stream uncomfortably close to the station before accelerating away over the mountains close by.

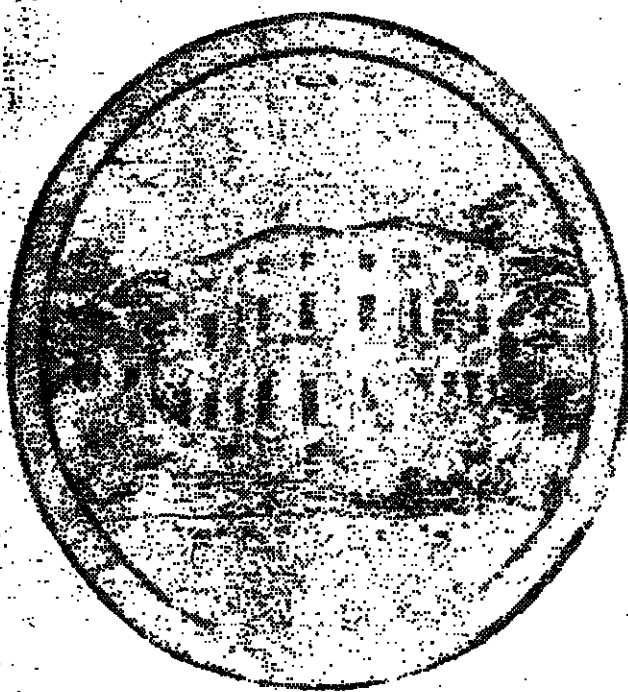
Mr J. Dyer James, secretary of the Merioneth branch of the Farmers' Union of Wales, said: "My members have seen these aircraft well within the prohibited area and are concerned about public safety. It would be horrific if one of the aircraft hit the building."

Mr James Sylvester, the deputy secretary, said complaints were made to the ministry about a year ago, but he was unaware of the latest incidents.

Once a year the staff at the power station undergo a full-scale emergency drill, when it is assumed that a disaster such as a crashing aircraft has befallen the plant.

The area, part of which was used as a mock-up of the Mekong Delta by American pilots during the Vietnam war, is a favourite venue for low-flying exercises. Some farmers have claimed that aircraft have flown at night only 100ft above the station.

Low level flying by aircraft capable of delivering nuclear payloads has led to successful claims for damages by farmers in the area for aborted livestock and disturbed poultry.



Broken plate: Barlaston Hall, as it was in 1942, featured on a Wedgwood wall plaque, and as it is now.

Mounting a monumental rescue for a ruined mansion

From John Young, Planning Reporter, Barlaston

The October gale howls through the windowless casements of Barlaston Hall. Rain deluges through gaping holes in the roof. An upstairs shutter bangs eerily but no one can reach to secure it, because the room has no floor, other than a skeleton of rotting joists.

Restoration of this eighteenth century mansion, which is listed grade I but has been left to rot for more than 13

years, is perhaps the most ambitious project of its kind ever undertaken.

"It is in no worse state than the Grange was", Mr Marcus Binney, chairman of Save Britain's Heritage, says cheerfully, omitting to add that the Grange, in Hampshire, was never restored but left as a "romantic ruin".

It was Save Britain's Heritage that last week bought Barlaston for a nominal £1

from the Wedgwood Pottery group, thus cutting short a public inquiry into the company's second application to demolish it. For its first venture into ownership, it could hardly have chosen a more daunting task.

The house is in an appalling state. Ceilings, walls, floors and stairways have collapsed in great heaps of rubble. Roof beams and joists hang at precarious angles.

To make things worse, it stands on a coalfield and subsidence has caused large vertical cracks to appear in the outside walls. The organization's first task will be to settle the question of compensation with the National Coal Board and then to use the money to install a concrete "raft" at cellar level to ensure that future subsidence is uniform.

At the inquiry, the cost of underpinning was variously put at anything between £140,000 and £600,000. Mr Binney estimates that subsequent restoration will cost £250,000 but that the seven flats into which the house will be converted will together fetch about £350,000. Grants will also be sought from the Historic Buildings Council and the Architectural Heritage Fund.

Council blamed for centenary flop

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

A call has been made to suspend Liverpool Council over the scandal of a centenary show which lost £278,000. Mr Ronald Gould, a Conservative councillor, yesterday demanded that he and his colleagues be suspended after the auditor's report laid a

large part of the blame for the fiasco on the council.

The two-week event at Camp Hill, Woolton, in June last year, organised by Liverpool's Education Department, was planned to be self-financing. Councillors, headed by Mr

Gould, demanded an inquiry into the disastrous event when it was revealed that the city had not approved much of the spending. A working party was set up, and in January Mr Kenneth Antcliffe, the educational director, was suspended.

Early Stern hearing

The Court of Appeal yesterday ordered an early hearing of an appeal against the refusal of a London Bankruptcy Court registrar to allow three creditors to question Mr William Stern, a former property magnate, about his lifestyle as a bankrupt.

An application by Mr Stern for discharge from his £118m bankruptcy in 1978 was adjourned in August pending the appeal. The creditors are Keyser Ullmann, claiming £20m, the Crown Agents, claiming £40m and First National Bank of Chicago, claiming £1m.

Whitehall brief

Reforms are making an impact

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Kenneth Sharp, former justice of the peace, Territorial Army officer and member of the Cumbrian professional community, has a dream. He wants to infiltrate every nook and cranny of Whitehall with one of his own kind.

Mr Sharp, an engaging, fluent, 54-year-old of great charm, is not some sinister KGB spy-master planting "moles", but head of the Government Accountancy Service who, from his base at the Department of Industry in Victoria Street, tramps Whitehall proselytizing, as he puts it, in other ministries about the need to employ more of his people and to make use of their skills as a routine contribution to policy-making.

Raw statistics show he has achieved considerable success since he took up his post in 1975. Lumping public service accountants together to include the Exchequer and Audit Department and the District Audit Service with Whitehall, the number of accountants rose from 831 in 1975 to 1,055 in 1981, an increase of 27 per cent over a period in which central government manpower generally has been falling.

But Mr Sharp has not yet reached the promised land of his vision. To enable accountants to penetrate the government machine successfully to the point where practically every principal finance officer has an accountancy background, he wants to disband the separate professional accountant class, and to move its officials into the Civil Service's administration group, where they will join those already there in a new functional specialism.

That was Mr Sharp believes, given time, he can dramatically improve on the 29 accountants now at assistant secretary level or equivalent, and the six in the open structure which embraces the

top three ranks of the Civil Service.

Taking stock of his six-year crusade in conversation recently, Mr Sharp said: "We are winning. We are on the way to a big reform."

During his appearance before the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee in June, an MP told Mr Sharp: "I do not quite understand what powers you possess."

He replied: "I can answer that in one word: none. How, then, has he moved his dream towards reality? Mainly by the energetic lobbying of a committee of permanent secretaries commissioned to consider the future of Civil Service accountants. He has been helped, too, by the priority afforded financial management and the achievement of value for money by the Thatcher administration."

But the Sharp charm has not worked everywhere. Like a heckler interrupting a street corner evangelist with loud raspberries, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, the union representing the 384 officials in the professional accountant class (the bulk of the 278 in the

administration group are looked after by the Society of Civil and Public Servants, which is well disposed towards the Sharp plan) has denounced his scheme as misguided.

Far from strengthening the position of accountants, the government maintains to uproot them from their separate class would mean a loss of identity and their disappearance into the mists of the vast administration group. Unlike government economists and statisticians, who have their own distinct services, accountants are still treated as artisans by expensively educated senior administrators, the argument runs.

The only remedy is to build up the Government Accountancy Service by paying salaries that will attract good people from the private sector and giving them access to many more senior posts, an assistant secretary level and above.

The institution tends to see Mr Sharp as a fast-talking, immensely plausible man who is selling their birthright. For his part, Mr Sharp says he is still well disposed towards the union and hopes it will take part in final negotiations on his new scheme to protect its members' interests before the move into the administration group takes place on July 1, 1982.

Mr Sharp is convinced that his reform will triumph eventually. He believes there is a head of steam behind it from ministers, permanent secretaries and the middle ranks of the Civil Service. He has two years to go before his contract expires, much too short a span for him to know whether his plan of well-timed infiltration has worked.

"Whether I have been successful cannot be judged until I see whether my successor's successor is successful", he says.

MAN LEAPT TO DEATH FROM HOTEL

From Our Correspondent, Bradford

Mr James Childs, an electrical engineer, telephoned his former girl friend and told her to watch him leap to his death from an hotel, an inquest was told yesterday.

As the girl looked out from the Shell office at Stanner House, Birmingham, she saw him jump from the window of an hotel room, it was said. The inquest at Birmingham was told that she had telephoned back to the Holiday Inn hotel in Paradise Circus in the hope that staff could stop him, but they failed to find him in time.

Mr Childs fell to his death on Friday. He had been at work the day before, a friend of the family said. He was divorced and had been living in various hotels.

The inquest was adjourned for further inquiries.

MURDER CHARGE

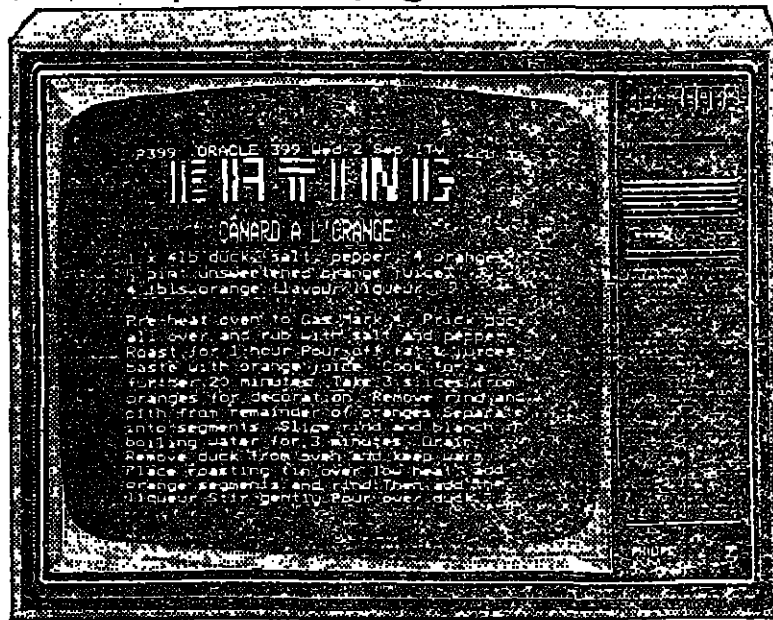
Ian Newton, aged 35, painter, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody for a week yesterday at Oxford, Hertfordshire charged with the murder of a girl aged 12 found dead outside a block of flats on Friday.



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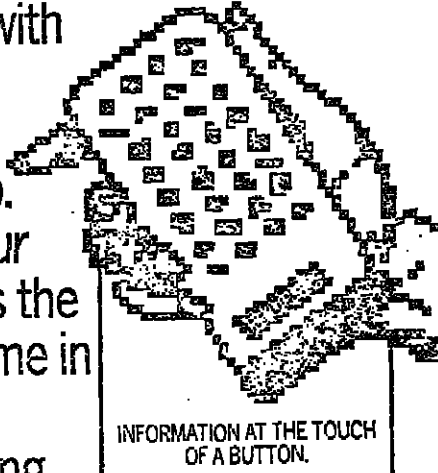
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Repatriation plan a gross insult, immigrants say

A call by the right-wing Conservative Monday Club for a multi-million pound programme to repatriate 100,000 coloured people a year from Britain was described yesterday as bribery and a gross insult by leaders of the West Indian and Asian communities.

The club's 10-point resettlement scheme, which seems certain to be a source of at least mild embarrassment to the party leadership at this week's conference, envisages coloured people being offered £5,000 or more to return to their "home" countries.

The offer would be open to all coloured people, including those whose parents or grandparents were born in Britain, leaders of the club made clear yesterday.

The cost, likely to be at least £500m to £600m a year, would form part of the overseas aid budget, with diplomatic pressure being brought to bear on possibly reluctant receiving countries.

Such a scheme would be coupled with an immediate end to new immigration from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan.

Mr Harvey Proctor, MP for Basildon and joint author of

the policy paper, described the scheme as a sensible contribution to restoring race relations in Britain.

He said the British had shown incredible tolerance at past levels of immigration but he foresaw a white backlash unless it was curbed. He sought many coloured people would be attracted by the scheme.

"There is clearly a large body of opinion among immigrants who would be very interested in a scheme to assist their passage back because of what they see as their prospects in remaining. But some people are almost too frightened to say so."

Asked if the aim of the plan was to get fewer black and brown faces on the streets, he replied that it was.

The principle of assisted repatriation, which Mr Proctor said had been Conservative policy since the early 1960s, was accepted officially but the present scheme was a reluctant concession, he added.

France and Germany were mounting similar operations, and the return of thousands of small businessmen with money and entrepreneurial flair would be a very consider-

able contribution to Britain's overseas aid effort.

The Monday Club scheme was immediately described as a very cheap offer by Mr William Trant, chairman of the West Indian Standing Conference.

"Britain owes a great deal more to the West Indian community here than it is presently prepared to admit. It is a gross insult for black people to be offered that sort of bait to create a purist white society in the United Kingdom," Mr Trant said.

Black people who intended to return to the Caribbean would do so without any inducement. "But I am not saying there are not small sections who find it extremely difficult to survive in the present economic climate."

Mr Kanti Nagda, secretary of the Confederation of Indian Organizations, said the suggestion that many people would be attracted by the sums mentioned was absolutely wrong.

"Coloured people have made this country their home," he added. "They want to be part of it. The question of resettlement does not appeal at all."



Detention for glue-sniffer who slew grandmother

From Our Correspondent, Cardiff

Neville Waite, a schoolboy aged 16, was convicted yesterday of murdering his grandmother after he had been sniffing glue. He smashed her skull with a poker and dumped her into a bath of scalding water in an attempt to conceal his crime.

The boy attacked Mrs Emma Waite, a widow, aged 76, as she sat in a rocking chair watching television at her council flat.

Yesterday a jury at Cardiff Crown Court reached the unanimous verdict of guilty of murder. Mr Justice Kenneth Jones sentenced the boy to be detained at her Majesty's pleasure. Her long young son, David, 12, will depend upon those in charge of him.

The boy had told the court that he went to his grandmother's flat in Ffordy Road, Kenfig, Mid Glamorgan, to steal money soon after sniffing glue. He said he needed the cash to buy more glue. Mrs Waite had come home before he could take it.

He told police in a statement "I don't know what came over me. It must have been the glue. I loved her. I don't know why I hit her."

He wept as he told the court how he dragged her unconscious body from the sitting room into the bathroom. There he toppled her into the bath before filling it with boiling water. After the killing he fled, taking some banknotes from her purse.

He told the court his glue sniffing began two years before the killing, when he was 14 years old. He said that by last May he was sniffing glue two or three times a day and could not stop. "It made me dream of fairytale things like paper flowers growing out of the ground. It just felt as if you were in another world."

He admitted taking cash from his mother's purse and stealing glue from a local shop to feed his habit.

The court heard conflicting evidence from psychiatrists about the state of the boy's mind after the killing. Dr James Curran, a consultant psychiatrist with Mid Glamorgan Health Authority said he examined him about five times and took the view that his personality had severely deteriorated from being repeatedly poisoned by the glue sniffing.

But Dr Alan Capstick, a consultant psychiatrist at Whitchurch mental hospital, Cardiff, who also examined the boy, said that in his opinion he had not suffered any abnormality of mind which would substantially impair his mental responsibility for his acts.

Outside the courtroom one of the boy's relatives, who declined to be named, said "We thought the verdict should have been manslaughter and we shall certainly be standing by him."

Inquest on death in care of police draws picket

By Lucy Hodges

Mr Winston Rose, aged 27, the mentally disturbed man who died while in the care of the police on his way to mental hospital in July had difficulty in breathing just before his death, a Coroner's Court was told yesterday.

Professor Keith Simpson, the pathologist who conducted the post-mortem examination, said that three things: an obstruction to the mouth or nose; pressure on the neck; or pressure to the chest.

He said there was intense engorgement of the dead man's lungs and discoloration of his blood through lack of oxygen. The death of Mr Rose, a former boxer, who Professor Simpson said was in good health at the time of death and who lived in Elm Road, Leytonstone, east London, has aroused concern in the black community.

There was a picket outside Walthamstow Town Hall as the inquest started yesterday. Leaflets were distributed by the Winston Rose Action Committee, and the public gallery was full of black people.

A total of 52 witnesses are being called by Dr Harold Price, the coroner. Twelve gave evidence yesterday before a jury of 10, four of whom are black. They will have to decide how Mr Rose died on July 13 last.

Mr Rose met his death after a struggle with 11 policemen who had been called by a Waltham Forest social worker to take him to Claybury psychiatric hospital. Mr Rose, who spent a month compulsorily detained in Claybury in 1979, had refused to go.

The police said afterwards that Mr Rose died after choking on his own vomit.

Professor Simpson said yesterday that that was the immediate cause of death, but he agreed with the coroner that the vomiting had been caused by lack of oxygen, which had made breathing difficult.

"When people die of inhaling vomit their lungs do not show the intense engorgement as in this case," Professor Simpson said. He added that laymen would find it much more difficult to detect blueness of the skin in a black man than in a white man.

Psychiatrists who had treated Mr Rose came in for tough questioning from Mr Michael Mansfield, acting for the Rose family.

He suggested that Mr Rose had no history of violence towards his family and that there was therefore no reason for the police to be called to his home on July 13 to remove him to hospital.

Evidence was given about the incident in 1979 when Mr Rose had been removed to Claybury by 10 police officers after he had begun acting strangely on the building site where he worked. He was taken into the locked ward of the hospital strapped to a stretcher and handcuffed.

Dr Peter Hughes, a psychiatrist at Claybury, said she was told that he became violent when he was unstrapped. He was diagnosed as suffering from a paranoid psychotic illness because of his delusions.

They involved the belief that the former was poisoning his tea and that doctors at Moorfield hospital, in London, had put a bug above his eye when they operated on it for a detached retina.

The inquest continues today.

CURB URGED ON RESALE OF HOMES

By Our Planning Reporter

More widespread restrictions on the resale of council houses in rural areas are called for today by Rural Voice, an association which includes the National Farmers' Union, the Country Land-owners' Association and the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers.

In a report on rural housing initiatives, Rural Voice points out that although tenants in rural areas have the same right to buy their homes as those anywhere else, restrictions on those to whom they may resell apply only in very limited districts.

There are many other districts, which have not been designated for special protection, where pressures on the housing market are very strong.

The report cites as examples the district of Allerdale, in Cumbria, where there is a very high demand from commuters and others for homes close to the Lakes, and east Hampshire, where prices in the smaller villages are "incredibly high" but where council policies strictly limit new development.

At least £100m a year needs to be spent on a programme of building and improvements to cure Scotland's severe housing problems, a report published yesterday states (the Press Association reports).

The report, prepared by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, sets out to shatter what it describes as the complacent view of successive governments that Scotland no longer has a mass housing shortage.

There are 104,000 homes in Scotland below the tolerable standard, 30,000 tenement flats without bathrooms in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and more than 2,000 people living in homes that are physically handicapped who should not be there, the report says.

At the very least, it concludes, £100m a year is needed to meet the annual housing association programme built up over the past six years in response to Government targets.

The report says national housing associations are Scotland's main providers of sheltered homes for the elderly and disabled.

Police federation chief fined

The chairman of the Police Federation, Mr James Jardine, was convicted yesterday of driving without due care after Cheltenham magistrates heard that he drove on to a main road in the town and crashed into another car.

Mr Jardine, aged 53, pleaded not guilty, said road markings at the A40 junction were confusing. He was fined £20, had his licence endorsed and was ordered to pay £44 costs.

Mr Jardine said he was driving to a federation meeting when he was in collision with a car driven by a former driving instructor, Mr Patrick Pittaway. "I accept now that I should have been more aware but I thought I was on a roundabout and had the right of way," he said.

Mr David Leahy, for the defence, said it was significant that the road markings had been improved since the accident.

Mr Jardine had a clean licence after 37 years' driving.

Mother locked up over a 'technicality'

From Our Correspondent Dunfermline

A father said yesterday that he would ask his MP to investigate why his wife was locked up for two days over a minor road traffic offence.

Mrs Melinda Coutts saw her five year old daughter taken screaming from a police cell. And after 47 hours in custody Mrs Coutts, aged 28 of Daphne Crescent, Parkside, Seaham, co Durham, was admonished at Dunfermline Sheriff Court for what her agent described as a "technicality".

Mr William Coutts said later, "after what my two children witnessed at Musselburgh police station and the nightmares my daughter Laura has had since, I will be asking my MP to investigate the shocking treatment my family have had. I shall also be contacting the National Council for Civil Liberties".

In court Mrs Coutts's agent, Mr John Fotheringham, said: "Mrs Coutts has no criminal record whatever and has not even been convicted of a driving offence."

Mrs Coutts was stopped on a routine check in Cowdenbeath, Fife on June 18 last. She did not have her insurance certificate and was asked to produce it to the police at Musselburgh, Lothian, where she then lived, within six days.

Mr Fotheringham said: "In May Mrs Coutts had paid her annual premium of £69. Just before this she had been involved in an accident and had a claim against her insurance."

"When she went to get her certificate her brokers said they could not issue it until she had paid an additional £31."

"This she did and they issued her with a cover note. She did not realize it did not

cover the day she was stopped in Cowdenbeath until she was at Musselburgh police station. The police led her to believe that if her story was true then further proceedings were unlikely."

"I have checked out Mrs Coutts's story with her brokers and it is correct."

"In the interval Mrs Coutts and her family moved to co Durham and she never received a summons. Last Saturday on a visit to her mother-in-law in Edinburgh she stopped off at Musselburgh police station on another matter and was arrested."

Sheriff George Evans admonished Mrs Coutts, who admitted a charge of driving in Cowdenbeath without insurance.

Afterwards, Mrs Coutts said: "I thought my insurance brokers had sorted the whole matter out. I just could not believe the police were going to lock me up. The children were terribly upset. Laura had to be dragged from my arms. She was screaming."

Her husband added: "The children and I were told to go into the police station and we were allowed to see her in what looked like a police cell. I left to get her some cigarettes and when I returned I had to drag Laura away."

Mrs Coutts's case first came before Dunfermline Sheriff Court on September 17, when the Deputy Fiscal, Mrs Katharine-Anne Petrie, told the court again on September 30, when a warrant was granted for Mrs Coutts's arrest.

Dunfermline's Procurator Fiscal, Mrs James Douglas said yesterday: "There is no reason why discretion should not have been used and Mrs Coutts released on bail to appear today."

Lords conservationists set for final attack on Bill

By John Young, Planning Reporter

A final attempt is to be made in the House of Lords on Thursday, with strong all-party support, to force through what is seen as a vital amendment to the Wildlife and Countryside Bill.

The aim is to alter clauses 31 and 32, which say they now stand would entitle farmers to automatic compensation whenever they are refused grants for agricultural improvement schemes on the ground that they would adversely affect natural beauty, wildlife or amenity.

After months of debate and the tabling of hundreds of minutes, the crucial "show-down" between farmers and conservationists has narrowed down above all to this one issue. Supporters of the amendment claim that not only the future of large tracts of cherished countryside is at stake, but also millions of pounds of public money.

The two clauses in the Bill, which have government approval, state that national park authorities or the Nature Conservancy Council may object to grants for improvement schemes within national parks or sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

But within months the authorities must offer to enter into so-called management agreements with the applicants, which would entail compensation payments.

The Lords amendment would give the authorities discretion about entering into manage-

ment agreements, but could not oblige them to do so. If no such agreement was offered, a farmer would lose his entitlement to compensation for theoretical loss of profits.

The amendment has been tabled by Lord Buxton (Con) and Lord Onslow (Lib), Lord Hunt (SDP) and Lady White (Lab).

It has been endorsed by the Association of County Councils, the Countryside Commission, the Association of National Park Officers, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and the Council for National Parks.

The RSPB said yesterday that if the Bill became law protection of one site alone, the Nene Washland, near Peterborough, might cost up to £200,000 in compensation.

Lord Onslow gave an example of a friend who farmed in the Yorkshire Dales national park, and who had calculated that if he applied to "sing and lime" 15,000 acres of grouse moor, to convert it to grassland, he would under the Bill be entitled to £300,000 a year in compensation if his application was refused.

"If the Bill is passed as it is, it will either produce the biggest shock in history or, far more likely, it will mean that the park authorities and the NCC will feel unable to object to schemes, and conservation will simply go by the board," Lord Onslow said.

Civil Service unions fear government pay device

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Government will this week submit its evidence to the independent inquiry into Civil Service pay, which is likely to give an indication of the stance Mrs Margaret Thatcher will adopt in the approaching pay negotiations with Britain's 530,000 white collar civil servants.

Such a move would be likely to meet with strong resistance from the nine unions, and senior officials yesterday doubted whether the practical difficulties in introducing regional or grading differentials can be overcome before the April 1 settlement date.

Union leaders believe that the Government may try to introduce an element in the pay offer to reflect market forces, such as higher pay for jobs facing staff shortages.

The unions will be anxious to examine the government submission to the inquiry, headed by Sir John Megaw, a former High Court judge, which is expected to be published later this week. They realize that Mrs Thatcher is determined to continue the policy of reducing what she sees as privileges enjoyed by civil servants.

Civil Service Department negotiators have made clear on several occasions that the Government wants to see a move away from the present highly structured system of grading to a more flexible system in certain areas, such as computer operating, can be rectified and that there is recognition of hard work and talent.

The government evidence to the inquiry will cover those points but its attitude to the negotiations in this year's pay round could also be influenced by whether the unions

are able to agree on a common claim. Their leaders are due to discuss that at a meeting next week and are likely to complete their own submission to the inquiry today.

Some union leaders believe that if the unions submit individual claims it will make it easier for the Government to introduce the market forces argument into the negotiations. However, both unions and government officials discount the idea of no overall increase.

The Government is committed to the agreement, which ended this year's five-month strike campaign, and will conduct the negotiations without a predetermined cash limit. Both sides will still be aware that the Government has indicated that 4 per cent is all that is available for pay increases in the public services this year.

Some union officials would like to see a common claim based on the TUC model for the public services of an increase to cover the rate of inflation, but that might meet with opposition from leaders of unions representing higher grade civil servants who are anxious to eliminate anomalies and restore differentials for senior technical and professional staff.

Christmas programmes on BBC Television could be threatened by an indefinite strike of television editors (Kenneth Godling writes).

The strike began last night and affects members of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs throughout the United Kingdom who work on the editing of video tape. The exceptions are outside broadcast members in London and members employed on television news.

IN BRIEF

Five women hurt in blast at flats

Five elderly women were recovering in hospital last night after an explosion in flats at a pensioners' complex at Neyland, in west Wales. Fallen masonry had to be dragged clear to free two of the women before they could be taken to hospital in Haverfordwest. One of the pensioners, Mrs Martha John, aged 82, was suffering from extensive burns.

The warden, Mrs Thelma Kavanagh, said: "The whole complex shook with the explosion and I saw two flats in ruins. I rushed over and realized two people were trapped. A lot of the other residents were screaming with panic." Gas board experts visited the scene to try to establish the cause of the explosion.

Greenland expeditions

Two 90-member expeditions to a remote part of Greenland, part of project to celebrate the British Schools Exploring Society's fiftieth anniversary, are open to 70 unemployed boys and girls aged between 16½ and 19½. The expeditions will set off in the summers of 1982 and 1983, and participants will have to help to raise the £1,400 cost themselves.

Nurses for trial

Four nurses and a former nurse from Rampton special hospital were committed for trial to Nottingham Crown Court by magistrates at Mansfield yesterday on a total of 16 charges of ill treating patients. They were remanded on bail until the hearing.

£5,000 in fines

When 12 people were fined a total of £5,000 in Birmingham yesterday for unruly behaviour at football matches, the prosecution said most of the trouble occurred at the Birmingham and West Ham game on October 3.

Real estate car

Mr Trevor Ryall is asking £35,000 for his Cortina estate car, but the extras include a house with garage and garden. He resorted to the marketing play after failing to sell his house, in Walton, Essex, in seven months.

Guard injured

Thieves yesterday broke a printing works security guard's spine while raiding Waterlow's works in Dunstable, Bedfordshire. He caught one intruder, but a second man then attacked him. Both escaped.

Brothers burnt

Gordon Clark, aged 13, and Ian Clark, aged 12, brothers of Heston, Surrey, were in a hospital special burns unit yesterday after sparking off an explosion by puncturing two gas cylinders they were playing with on a disused farm.



Mr Kenneth Addison: No question marks, no answers, no conviction.

Silent motorist confounds drink test procedure

From Our Correspondent, York

Kenneth Addison's lips were sealed on the night police suspected he was over the drink-driving limit. He only stared and smiled at them as they went through the procedure for obtaining samples of blood or urine.

His silence may have saved him from a driving ban yesterday, after magistrates at York decided he was not obliged to say anything to the police, and therefore under law had not refused to give specimens of blood or urine. Mr Addison, aged 29, garage manager, of Millfield Road, York, had denied failing to give the specimens. The decision was based on the absence of question marks from form 300, which is used by North Yorkshire police in drink-driving cases.

Mr Peter Collier, for the defence, said: "If there had been question marks at the end of statements on the form then the defendant would have been obliged to answer 'yes' or 'no'."

"But there were not, so he was perfectly entitled to stand there and say nothing or wait until the police gave him the utensils for the urine specimen."

Mr Addison was arrested after sounding his horn after dark and taken to York police

station, where he allegedly failed a breath test.

Chief Inspector Barney Coleman said he had not replied when asked to provide a sample of blood. Two minutes later Police Constable Terry Smith had told him he would be required to provide two specimens of urine within an hour of the second stage of the procedure, but again he had refused to reply, and smiled and stared at the officer.

Less than a minute later Mr Addison had again been given an opportunity to provide a sample of blood, but said: "I will give urine, instead."

Because of the strict rules of procedure, PC Smith would not accept that, and told him he was not allowed to go back after each stage had been completed.

Mr Collier said the police officer was bound by the form, which did not cover all circumstances, and the police had never before been confronted with that situation. The North Yorkshire police said: "We are calling for the papers for that case, which will be studied by the Chief Constable, who will then decide what further action to take."

The procedure had been in operation since 1968 and had been adopted by many other police forces.

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Mitterrand taken to task over stop-go policies

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Oct 12

The Giscardian and Gaullist sands with its motions of opposition may be plunging the country today's the second since the Socialists took over four months ago.

The outcome was so utterly predictable because of the left's overwhelming majority that only a handful of members of all parties bothered to turn up for this afternoon's debate in the National Assembly. But the debate was the merit of compelling the Government to explain away the hesitations and inconsistencies of its economy policy which within the space of the week have included a devaluation of the franc, after a heavy foot on the accelerator of inflation, and a sharp application of the brakes with prices and incomes policy that dare not say its name.

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, gave enough importance to the exercise to ensure that his long speech in defence of what he called the "battle for growth, employment and prices" was at the beginning, and not, as originally planned, at the end of the debate and to ensure that it was not in the shadow of the rows of empty benches.

This aroused the indignation of the few Giscardians present, because M. Jean-Claude Gaudin, the chairman of the UDF parliamentary party, with his very Giscardian manner and account, was not given the benefit of such exposure when he enumerated the Government's rapid about-turns on currency, prices, taxes, and the budget deficit.

"The best intentioned observer would search in vain for the logic of your action," he exclaimed. "But Frenchmen can see only too clearly the logic of what will happen. Today you spend too much. Tomorrow you will not be spending enough. Reality is more powerful than your speeches."

"The coherence of our policy is clear, known, and obvious: it is the mobilization of all the forces in France in the battle for employment. It is that what

Egypt adjusts to life after Sadat

Mubarak: short on charisma but long on efficiency

Although the world has repeatedly been promised continuity of policy from the next Egyptian Government, no one expects much continuity of style when Mr Hosni Mubarak is formally confirmed as the third president of the Arab Republic of Egypt after the referendum due to be held tomorrow.

Apart from similarly humble family origins in the fertile Nile Delta, and a sincere devotion to a moderate form of Islam, Mr Mubarak has few other common points with his predecessor in place of a flamboyant leader with his eye fixed firmly on the world stage, the forty-two million Egyptians are now to be led by a dour but efficient former air force commander who has pinpointed food production, housing and infrastructure as the main problems facing his government.

In the years since being unexpectedly appointed vice-president in April, 1975, Mr Mubarak has been assiduously groomed as the eventual successor to Mr Sadat, who stressed at the time he made the well-calculated promotion: "I need a vice-president who will share with me State responsibilities at all levels. No one can foresee the future, and the State's secrets must not be known by one man alone."

Because of Mr Mubarak's relatively poor English, his wooden public manner, and his regimental approach to politics, he was the butt of a number of cruel personal jokes at the time of his appointment. His subsequent performance as a loyal deputy has won him increasing respect from a coterie of friends and advisers at the top, but among many ordinary Egyptians he is still known unflatteringly as "Teflon" because "nothing sticks in his head".

Experienced observers believe that the vice-president has been underestimated because of the way he has been looked down on in intellectual circles. They note in addition that in the wake of the crippling internal inefficiency of Mr Sadat's increasingly autocratic regime, what is needed as a

first priority is an able administrator capable of revamping the rusty mechanisms of Egyptian government. In this respect Mr Mubarak has already shown an ability to cut through Egypt's infuriating red tape and to move more by stick than carrot willingness among lesser officials to take decisions and respond to orders.

He makes no secret of being a firm disciplinarian, and this is expected to lead to a continuation of the draconian security measures recently introduced against opponents of the regime, particularly Muslim extremists. "I will be very strict with anybody who ever thinks of creating trouble without any reason in this country," he told Walter Cronkite in a revealing interview last week. "I will be very strict to those who will be against the law and discipline."

Mr Mubarak's own modest personal lifestyle, his apparent lack of vanity, his freedom from any taint of corruption and the restrained public manner of his attractive, half-Welsh wife Susan are all regarded as vital elements in the effort now needed to narrow the dangerous gap between the Egyptian government and the people.

The embarrassing lack of public grief surrounding President Sadat's untimely death, and privately voiced resentment at the decision to grant two luxury rest houses and a pension to his family was further evidence that the late President's adulation in the West was being matched by increasing (but heavily repressed) disenchantment at home. This was caused by a combination of factors ranging from 30 per cent inflation to persistent rumours of financial corruption at the top.

For a man whose personal conduct of government will now be pivotal for the future of Middle East stability, Mr Mubarak, at the age of 53, has managed to draw a veil over his personal feelings on a number of topics. But senior Western diplomats are heartened that he has repeatedly voiced an extremely strong



dislike of Communism and a deep concern about Soviet intentions in the region.

Concern in some quarters that the President-designate might gradually reverse Egypt's steady move away from the Soviet camp appears based on ignorance and a false interpretation of his own military past. A capable and brave fighter pilot, Mr Mubarak trained in the Soviet Union for two periods between 1959 and 1961 and later transferred to the Soviet-supplied TU 16 light bombers, whose squadrons he commanded during their involvement in the Yemen civil war of 1962.

Although Mr Mubarak speaks Russian and went on an important military fence-mending trip to Moscow in 1972 (shortly after Mr Sadat's expulsion of 17,000 Russian advisers), he is regarded as equally anti-Soviet as his

predecessor. Commenting on his time as a student at the Soviet military command school of Frunze, he said bitterly last week: "I stayed sometimes near the Chinese border near Tashkent. Any one who wants to be a Communist should go there for a little while."

A holder of the Star of Sinai, the highest Egyptian military award, Mr Mubarak was appointed chief of staff of the Air Force at the remarkably young age of 41, going on to become commander-in-chief three years later. The stage was set for his subsequent political career by the greatly improved performance of the Egyptian air force during the 1973 war with Israel, which he had worked closely with the late President Sadat to prepare.

Unlike his two predecessors, Mr Mubarak was not one of the "free officers" who overthrew the late King Farouk, but this is unlikely to be held against him. He learnt quickly from Mr Sadat's own relationship as vice-president to Nasser, the skill of remaining relatively self-effacing, while at the same time guaranteeing a degree of loyalty among men in key positions. For this reason he remains something of an unknown quantity, whose own policy aims are only likely to evolve slowly over the coming months.

It is widely assumed that both from temperament and timing, he will seek to effect something of a rapprochement with the conservative regimes in the Arab World, although no sign of moves are expected until the crucial date of April next year, when Israel is due to hand back the final third of the occupied Sinai. Under his new government less expansive international gestures can be expected from Egypt, although he has yet given no reason to doubt that he will strive hard to make those already made stick.

As vice-president, Mr Mubarak has performed a number of important functions, the most significant of which was acting as coordinator of Egypt's rambling internal security network. He has travelled widely, impressed the Americans with his determination to maintain Egypt's role as the West's Middle East "Policeman" and helped establish an important power base vis-à-vis the organizational structure of the ruling National Democratic Party, which was founded in 1978.

A somewhat private man who has yet to display the ruthless determination in the political court, he has so far shown no sign of the charismatic authority which marked both Nasser and Sadat's approach to government. But if he lives up to pledges to concentrate first on Egypt's internal problems, he will be performing a vital service which is a *sine qua non* of any attempt to retain the stability about which the West is so concerned.

Christopher Walker

Mystery of President's missing bodyguard

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Oct 12

Egyptian officials are investigating whether President Sadat's personal security force left him unguarded immediately before his assassination, NBC television reported today.

Mr Art Kent, an NBC correspondent in Cairo, said there was a big investigation into security force with more than three-quarters of the officers having been detained and questioned about why armed guards were ordered to leave the area just before the attack.

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, said on television from Cairo at the weekend that he had been given no evidence either from the Egyptians or American intelligence that there was a widespread conspiracy to kill Mr Sadat. It was an assassination, not a coup, he said.

Questions on how it occurred and why the American-trained security guards did so little to protect their President are still being asked, however.

Photographs of the incident have shown gunmen, apparently unimpeded by defending security guards, reaching over the wall surrounding the stand where Mr Sadat was viewing the parade and indiscriminately spraying the victims with gunfire.

A report in *Time* magazine says that not a single security guard or soldier had been seen between the route of the march and the reviewing stand — undoubtedly, it says, because no one expected trouble from the parade where there was not supposed to be any live ammunition.

In a description of the attack, *Time* tells how the dignitaries on the stand, including President Sadat, looked at six Mirage jet fighters going over the head. A lorry stopped on the route of the parade and suddenly there was the sound of gunfire.

Three uniformed men were spraying the stand from the back of the lorry. Grenades were hurled but failed to explode. Then the grenade thrower returned to the lorry and, with three others, sprinted towards the stand firing automatic weapons and yelling: "Glory to Egypt, Attack."

The report continues: "For seconds the spectators sat frozen, apparently thinking that the assault was part of the show. Sadat rose as if preparing to salute the attacking men. Sadat was struck by bullets or fragments. Others fell around him."

According to *Time* the four assassins encountered little resistance in the first 50 seconds of the attack.

□ The State Department today described a Soviet statement accusing the United States of gross and unlawful interference in Egyptian affairs as propaganda.

In a predictable response, a spokesman said the statement did not call for further substantive comment. It is seen here as an attempt by the Soviet Union to regain influence in Egypt lost under President Sadat, who threw out the Russians from his country.

The United States intends to move quickly to ensure Middle East security after the assassination of President Sadat, Mr Haig said. The Egyptian Government acknowledged officially today that 18 Army officers have been dismissed for religious extremism as a result of the investigation conducted since President Sadat's assassination.

Plutonium sale to US explored

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Foreign Office confirmed last night that preliminary talks with the Americans had started over the supply of plutonium to the United States.

The Americans are said to need additional supplies because their own stocks of plutonium, which is extracted from spent fuel-rods, are likely to be exhausted by their burgeoning weapons programme. But a Foreign Office spokesman insisted that any plutonium exported by Britain—which is believed to have more than enough for its own needs—would be for civil purposes only in the United States.

America "might" have a requirement for its own fast-breeder reactor programme, according to this official Whitehall line—and all other nuclear authorities and agencies in Britain yesterday were referring calls to the Foreign Office.

The spokesman also underlined that any nuclear fuels supplied across the Atlantic would be subject to the usual international safeguards laid down by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, the world's watchdog on the subject.

It would not be the first time that Britain has supplied plutonium to the United States anyway. America has bought from countries to which Britain has exported a total of 1,280 kilograms of the material since 1971. The others were Belgium, France, West Germany, Switzerland and Japan.

MINISTER OUSTED

Salisbury—Mr Herbert Ushakov, Zimbabwe's Health Minister, has been removed from office, the official radio reported. He was criticized recently by Mr Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

British envoy protests after Lagos killing

From Karan Thapar, Lagos, Oct 12

Sir Mervyn Brown, the British High Commissioner in Nigeria, has formally expressed his Government's concern for the safety of British nationals after a British secretary at the High Commission in Lagos was machine-gunned to death yesterday, and her husband critically injured.

The killing occurred as a group of armed robbers attempted to steal the Mercedes-Benz car of an Indian couple they were accompanying to a Sunday lunch. Mrs Maude Eagleton was shot in the head and died immediately. Her husband, Mr R. Eagleton, was flown out of the country in a special aircraft this morning.

Mr Eagleton who works for the French company Soca and has been resident in Lagos for 15 years, was accompanied by the Indian couple, Dr and Mrs Bal. Mrs Bal was slightly injured in the attack. Dr Bal is an eminent doctor based in Lagos.

In recent months several European ambassadors, including those of France and the

Chile leader asked about lost Briton

By Michael Knipe

Señor José Pinera, the Chilean Minister of Mines, met Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State at the Department of Trade, in London yesterday as efforts open to raise with him the subject of human rights abuses in Chile.

Mr Geoffrey Bindman, a solicitor acting for the mother of Mr William Beausire, an Anglo-Chilean businessman who is one of an estimated 1,500 people who have disappeared without trace in Chile during the rule of President Pinochet, has written to Señior Pinera requesting a meeting and asking what progress has been made by official inquiries into the Beausire case.

Dr David Owen, one of the Social Democratic Party's leaders and a former Foreign Secretary, has raised the same issue in a letter to Lord Carrington, his successor.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman told me yesterday that the British Embassy in Chile had made regular representations regarding Mr Beausire's disappearance, the most recent being on October 5, but these had not produced any results.

Señor Pinera is the first Chilean minister to make an official visit to Britain since the coup in Santiago eight years ago. He arrived on Sunday at the invitation of the London Metal Exchange.

Amnesty International said the figure of 1,500 disappeared persons attributed to the security forces was a conservative estimate. The organization had detailed evidence of 600 cases involving abduction and torture. One man Mr Beausire, who according to a dossier published by Amnesty, came to the attention of the security police because his sister was associated with the son of the assassinated President Allende.

British envoy protests after Lagos killing

From Karan Thapar, Lagos, Oct 12

Netherlands, have had occasion to bring the security situation in the capital to the attention of the authorities after attacks on their nationals and on the property of foreign-based companies.

Mercedes Benz cars are particularly attractive for armed robbers because of their prestige and resale value. Last December, the Indian High Commissioner's official Mercedes staff car was stolen from the front porch of the embassy, Sunday lunch. Mrs Maude Eagleton was shot in the head and died immediately. Her husband, Mr R. Eagleton, was flown out of the country in a special aircraft this morning.

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Lieutenant Khalid Ahmed Shawki al-Islambouly, the alleged leader of the killers of President Sadat, pictured in the Egyptian National Democratic Party magazine Mayo.

Cairo prepares to toughen laws against terrorism

From Our Own Correspondent, Cairo, Oct 12

As official fears about Egypt's fragile internal security situation continue to intensify, the Government is planning to introduce a number of new emergency measures later this week in an attempt to reduce further terrorist attacks by Muslim extremists.

According to the semi-official Cairo daily, *Al-Ahram*, the new measures will include a doubling of the existing penalties for the carrying of unlicensed firearms and tough new penalties for concealing information from the authorities about the activities of subversive groups.

These penalties follow fierce fighting in the southern town of Asyut last week in which Muslim fanatics posed as members of the Egyptian security forces. During the uprising 118 people were killed.

The announcement about the measures comes at a time when internal security is under stringent review, with ministers and senior figures in the defence establishment anxious to ascertain the causes of the huge breach of security which led to President Sadat's murder and to the temporary takeover of a security headquarters in Asyut.

General Abdul Halim abu Gheila, the Egyptian Defence Minister, said today that he expected a speedy public court martial and hanging of the Lieutenant Khalid Ahmed Shawki al-Islambouly, the alleged leader of the killers of President Sadat. He said none of the men was killed and all four were under arrest.

General abu Ghazala said: "I am going to insist on a public execution. I hope they will let me leave him hanging in the open air for a week or so." —AP.

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Settlements plea is rejected

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Oct 12

Officials in Jerusalem have privately rejected American calls for a suspension of Israeli land settlements in occupied Arab areas but an authoritative source said none was in fact scheduled at this time.

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, said in a television interview that the United States hoped Israel would refrain from new settlements in the "delicate present phase of the peace process".

Responsible Israelis refused to comment officially but drew attention to the rejection by Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, of Mr Haig's call for an Israeli gesture toward Egypt when they met at President Sadat's funeral.

According to Dr Ranan Leibowitz, co-chairman of the World Zionist Organization department which implements settlement decisions, all new settlements authorized by the joint government-World Zionist Jewish Agency have already been established.

He said five additional settlements were approved for the Jordan Rift area some years ago but they could not yet be scheduled because funds had not been appropriated.

Dr Weitz, representing the Labour opposition in Israel, said these settlements which he had proposed were in uninhabited desert and would not complicate the peace process. The Labour Government had founded settlements there for seven years without arousing objections but the Likud, which attained power in 1977, gave preference to settlement in controversial areas, he complained.

New settlement decisions must await the reorganization of the joint government-World Zionist Jewish Agency committee following the recent government reshuffle in which Mr Simcha Ehrlich succeeded Mr Ariel Sharon as Minister of Agriculture. Mr Ehrlich appointed Mr Michael Dekel as deputy minister specifically charged with dealing with settlements.

The new leadership has indicated its plans to thicken and consolidate existing localities rather than to dot the countryside with isolated settlements.

Some foreign observers believe that President Nimeiry is taking a considerable risk in allying himself so closely with the American concept of security in the Middle East.

An immediate result is certain to be further isolation in the Arab world and opposition in Sudan where the traditional hostility between the north and south of the country has been exacerbated by the discovery of oil.

Like the late President Sadat, President Nimeiry has come under increasing internal pressure from Islamic opposition groups and concern in Washington about the stability of the Government is one reason why the United States has been so quick to respond.

While Sadat arrested about 1,600 of his opponents last month in a purge of religious and political opponents, a little earlier President Nimeiry ordered the arrest of about 10,000 Sudanese.

President Nimeiry's internal difficulties have been increased by the country's acute financial situation, with estimates of its short-term financial needs of anything up to £1,000m. The Sudanese Government has pledged \$200m (£111m) for the next financial year, half of which is earmarked for military sales.

European observers interpret the American decision to not give such immediate and visible support to Sudan as the latest manifestation of the domino theory so familiar at the time of the Vietnam war. The Reagan administration is known to be nervous of any overthrow in Khartoum could indirectly threaten both Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The Libyan threat to Sudan was the dominant subject of the private talks held here earlier this week between President Nimeiry and Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State.

Khartoum hails arms deal and alignment with US

From Christopher Walker, Cairo, Oct 12

The Sudanese Government today expressed satisfaction at America's decision to pump extra arms and money into the impoverished country of 18 million people which seems destined to become the latest focal point for superpower rivalry in Africa.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Ghasim Idris, First Secretary of Sudan's Embassy in Cairo, said the Sudan had intended to defend our country against the Libyans. Our relations with America are now very steady and we have no reservations about the development of our country.

Mr Idris confirmed that a top-level team of American advisers had been dispatched to Khartoum to negotiate the urgent delivery of American arms designed to help the Sudanese Government to get a foothold in the area.

It is understood that the arms package will include tanks, aircraft, the possibly ground-to-air missile system. The Sudanese have been lobbying strongly for such weapons if Libyan aggression is to be countered.

The latest raid took place last Thursday, the first of 18 Muslim East of the sacrifice and resulted in a number of casualties when two villages were bombed.

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CHEYSSON CRITICAL OF SADAT

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Oct 12

M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, has once again put the cat among the diplomatic pigeons by suggesting yesterday that the assassination of President Sadat had removed an obstacle to reconciliation between Egypt and the other Arab countries.

The timing of his latest remark, on the day after the Egyptian leader's funeral, was unfortunate.

"There is not an Arab leader, either extreme or moderate, who has not acknowledged that peace in the Middle East involves the return of Egypt to the Arab fold. So long as you do not have Egypt among the Arabs, one cannot see how one can handle problems which are not dealt with in the framework of Camp David," he said in a radio debate.

Some explanation for the minister's rather provocative statement is to be found in the fact that both President Mitterrand and he found the indifference of the crowd to the Cairo funeral ceremonies a traumatic experience.

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EEC struggles to free itself from red tape

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Oct 12

The European Commission has decided there is too much red tape in the EEC. Far from binding the European Community together, it believes this is pulling it apart into too many separate packages.

In consequence the Commission has prepared a resolution for discussion by the next European Council asking it to be provided with the necessary administrative scissors to cut through as much of the red tape as possible, as quickly as possible.

Herr Karl-Hinz Narjes, the Commissioner responsible for the Community's interior market, said today: "After 23 years there is as much red tape at the borders inside the Community as ever there was. There is little difference in the formalities between trading inside the Community and trading with the outside world."

That, he said, increased the cost of exports in the Community by 5 per cent and cut into competitiveness. He said the number of disputes over customs formalities this year alone was 190 with a total of 400 outstanding from other years. That was proof that the problem was even on the increase.

In all, he said there were 55 different issues covering subjects as varied as veterinary regulations and insurance which were being held up for one reason or another by different governments.

As a token of political good will on the part of the Council, the Commission is looking for agreement on these issues as a package.

The Commission sees the Benelux union as being the prototype of the kind of community it wants to develop between Community members. According to the proposed resolution such a union "will allow the European citizen to have a better awareness of his membership to that entity represented by the Community". The regulations which the Commission wants to see rationalized involve customs and taxation methods. Simplifying value-added tax is singled out as being especially important, while a single customs document — such as the Commercial Bill — is regarded as being all that ought to be necessary for goods to cross frontiers inside the Community.

An extra 60m a year is to be set aside in the Community budget from next year to cover the new import restrictions and structural changes envisaged for the fruit and vegetable sector, the Commission has decided.

As far as olive oil is concerned the Commission has backed away from confrontation with the United States by rejecting — at least for the time being — a plan to tax vegetable oils and oil feeds entering the Community. America sells about £2,000m worth of oil a year to Europe and threatened to retaliate if the community raised tax barriers.

The need to protect European producers from cheap American oil crops will increase dramatically when Spain enters the Community.

Hitch again delays Astles trial

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Oct 12

The trial for murder of Mr Bob Astles, the British-born aide of former President Idi Amin of Uganda, was again delayed in the Uganda High Court in Kampala today. Mr Astles is charged with the murder of a Ugandan fisherman on Lake Victoria in 1977.

He has been held in prison in Kampala since being extradited from Kenya, where he fled by boat across Lake Victoria shortly before Kampala fell to advancing Tanzanian troops in 1979.

He appeared in court last week and was then remanded for another week at the request of the prosecution.

Today Mr George Emsu, the State Attorney, submitted that Mr Astles's British lawyer, Mr Philip Wilkinson, QC, was not entitled to appear because he did not have a certificate to practice law in Uganda.

Mr Wilkinson, who has been appearing in the Ugandan courts over the past 30 years, and was Attorney-General of Uganda for a few months in 1962, has now retired and lives near Peterborough.

The judge ordered a one-day adjournment to enable Mr Wilkinson to apply for a new certificate.

A British lawyer who travelled to Uganda last year to represent Mr Astles in an earlier hearing was not allowed to appear as he was not a member of the Ugandan bar.

Mr Astles denies the murder charge, which carries a sentence of death by hanging if he is found guilty.

BBC foreign service gets US backing

By Kenneth Gosting

The BBC has found a powerful ally in its fight to prevent the Government closing seven of its foreign language services and withdrawing its subsidy to the transcription services.

Mr Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has spoken against the cuts which will take effect next April unless the Cabinet changes its mind. Mr Percy, who raised the issue in Washington last week, contrasted the proposed closures with President Reagan's stated aim to boost the Voice of America, the United States overseas radio network.

Lord Byers, Liberal leader in the House of Lords, has written to Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, about the cuts and expects a reply early this week.

Mr Percy's remarks follow hard on the heels of a visit paid to the Foreign Office recently by two senior diplomats from the United States Embassy who said they felt the damage done by the cuts would be out of proportion to the savings made.

Mr Percy repeated the point while at the same time endorsing Mrs Margaret Thatcher's overall attempt to reduce public expenditure.

The senator was sent details of the threatened services by the BBC and said afterwards that the information had caused concern "among many of those who believe that international broadcasting by the Western democracies is very important in providing objective and comprehensive news coverage to the peoples of the world".



A professional hunter battling with an 11ft alligator which had just eaten a pet dog in a suburb of New Orleans

European backing for Greek left

From Mario Modiano, Athens, Oct 12

As the Greek election campaign moved from the provinces to Athens tonight for a final week of traditional open air rallies, the Greek Government reacted sharply to the manifestations of solidarity by European Socialist leaders with the Greek Socialists, effort to win next Sunday's poll.

"France yesterday, Greece today, Spain tomorrow," was the dominant slogan in Salonika over the weekend here. Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Socialist leader, appeared on the platform used by Mr Andreas Papandreu to address a big rally of supporters of his Panhellenic Socialist movement (Pasok).

Señor González told journalists: "I came to Greece hoping that Pasok would succeed. I am going away confident that Pasok will triumph."

When Mr Papandreu delivered his closing campaign speech in Athens this week, Mr Olaf Palme, the Swedish Social Democratic party leader, will join him.

In an interview published in Athens today, Herr Willy Brandt, chairman of the West German Social Democratic Party, expressed his conviction that European Socialists would welcome a Papandreu victory in Greece.

This open socialist support irritated Mr Evangelos Averoff, the Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister.

Mr Averoff, who is deputy leader of the ruling New Democracy Party, had earlier scolded the French Government for allowing Mr Papandreu to attend a cultural function in Athens in the presence of Mr Papandreu, organized last week by Miss Melina Mercouri, the actress, who is also a Pasok candidate.

Britain is implicated in Timor invasion scandal

From John Torres, Lisbon, Oct 12

The British Government has been implicated in a political scandal in Portugal. Britain, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand are alleged to have conspired with the Portuguese to encourage Indonesia to invade the Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1975.

The invasion was to prevent the establishment of a Marxist oriented Government there, a special report on television said.

Prominent political figures involved are said to include De Mario Soares, leader of the Socialist Party who was then Prime Minister, former President Costa Gomes, Senhor Almeida Santos, and prominent members of the Council of the Revolution.

It was alleged that they met General Ali Murad, head of Indonesia's secret service, who told them that Indonesia would only accept either the continuation of Portuguese rule or the annexation of East Timor by Indonesia.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, announced today that he would ask the

Ministers rebuked for servility

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Oct 12

Ten state chief ministers of Mrs Indira Gandhi's party were rebuked today for sycophancy after flying to Delhi at public expense to greet the Prime Minister on his return from a foreign journey.

"Servility is not loyalty", the *Hindustan Times* said in an editorial. "There seems to be an impression that survival is not for the fittest but for the most sycophantic. The Urvah Heaps of Indian politics are a disgrace to the nation."

Chief ministers are the heads of government in Indian states and if they are members of Mrs Gandhi's ruling Congress Party their jobs are effectively in her gift.

There was no protocol reason for 10 of the 13 Congress chief ministers to be on hand with bunches of flowers for Mrs Gandhi's arrival. As the *Times of India* noted today: "Mrs Gandhi gets irritated by hordes of her followers turning up at the airport with bouquets when they ought to be attending to their work."

Trudeau and premier try to end deadlock

From John Best, Ottawa, Oct 12

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, and Mr William Bennett, the Premier of British Columbia, met here tomorrow to try to find a way out of Canada's constitutional deadlock.

Mr Bennett is the spokesman for eight provinces opposed to the Federal Government's unilateral plan to patriate the Canadian constitution from Britain.

In a weekend television interview, Mr Bennett said that there is an "opportunity for agreement" between the provinces and Mr Trudeau. But he indicated the federal side would have to make the most of the concessions. "The biggest compromise will have to come, of course, from one side."

Since Mr Trudeau has been suggesting it is the provinces who must do the most compromising, chances of an eleventh hour agreement to achieve constitutional "patriation" by consensus are at best uncertain.

The Prime Minister still insists that he will push through parliament with minimum delay his controversial plan for bringing home the constitution, chiefly embodied in the 1982 British North America Act with an amending formula and a bill of rights added.

"We must not wait too long," he said, on his return on Friday from the Commonwealth Conference in Melbourne. "We must dispose of this question."

Final parliamentary consideration of the constitutional resolution was postponed last spring pending a ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada on its validity. The court finally ruled, last month, that the Federal Government had the legal right to proceed unilaterally, but that under firmly established convention it should obtain the consent of the provinces.

Only two of Canada's 10 provinces, Ontario and New Brunswick, support the Federal resolution in its present form. Evidence is increasing that the Prime Minister is not as sure of his position as his toughly worded statements might indicate.

He first demanded to meet all the provincial premiers at a showdown meeting tomorrow. When they objected that this was pushing things too fast, he suggested Thursday. Again the premiers balked.

Now the Prime Minister is suggesting a meeting next Thursday, the day after a scheduled meeting of the premiers in Montreal.

Just how soon the resolution can now come back before parliament, which reassembles this week after its three and a half months' summer recess, is therefore still unclear.

Prisoners of conscience



China: Liu Qing

By Caroline Moorehead

A machine technician and former editor of the unofficial journal *April Fifth Forum* is serving a three year reeducation sentence in the province of Shanxi. Liu Qing received this for his part in the Peking "democracy movement" of the late 1970s.

Liu Qing (whose real name is Liu Jianwei) was cofounder of the magazine, one of the most prominent of the unofficial papers which began appearing late in 1978. He was editor for just under a year. On November 11, 1979, he was arrested for distributing the transcripts of the trial of Wei Jingsheng, another activist in Peking's democracy movement. At the trial, Wei had just received a 15-year sentence on "political charges."

Liu Qing's sentence falls under a special category. He has neither been tried nor charged. His "reeducation through labour" punishment is administrative rather than judicial, and requires only a police order.

In October, 1980, a "National Committee to Save Liu Qing" was launched by 16 other unofficial magazines from different provinces of China. Many of those who joined the appeal were later arrested.

FRIAR HELD AFTER APPARITION

Belgrade, Oct 12. — A Roman Catholic friar has been arrested and is awaiting trial after a controversy which followed the alleged appearance of the Virgin Mary, according to the Belgrade newspaper *Vecernje Novosti* today.

The paper also said 11 people were expelled from the Communist Party and 48 others given party warnings for visiting the site of the alleged apparition in the southern town of Citluk, where six girls said they saw the Madonna in July.

Thousands of people have streamed into Citluk to visit the site, and authorities have claimed that the Roman Catholic Church is trying to use the event for political purposes.

Vecernje Novosti reported that the friar, Jozo Zovko, was in detention and awaiting trial, but did not say if he had been charged.

IN BRIEF

Estonians shout against Russians

Helsinki. — Hundreds of Estonian youths are reported to have joined an anti-Soviet demonstration after a basketball match. According to Finnish tourists who saw the demonstration, the young people shouted anti-Soviet slogans at police.

Heavy police reinforcements ended the demonstration after 45 minutes. Troops were also called in but they remained in their vehicles. Several people were arrested.

Nigerians on card

Lagos. — Nigeria is to introduce identity cards for all citizens over the age of 18. Professor Iya Abubakar, the Minister for Internal Affairs, said in a newspaper interview.

New cardinals

Rome. — The Pope is planning to create a number of new cardinals, probably in December, to bring the Sacred College of Cardinals up to full strength, Vatican sources said.

Bush warning

Santo Domingo. — Mr George Bush, the American Vice-President, said the Soviet Union and Cuba posed the main threat to freedom in the Caribbean and Central America. He was addressing the congress of the Dominican Republic.

Hidden leader

Tokyo. — Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, spent the first day of his visit to Japan behind ranks of police guards, missing a scheduled statement on arrival and remaining within a closely guarded Tokyo hotel.

Freshening fruit

Moscow. — Vines, blackberry bushes and cherry and almond trees are the most effective natural air purifiers, Soviet scientists say. These trees and bushes are to be planted round the Georgian capital of Tbilisi to cleanse the atmosphere.

Name change

Sydney. — Captain Mark Phillips, in Melbourne to compete in a three-day equestrian event, ordered the name of his horse to be changed when he discovered it was the same as one of the companies sponsoring the event.

ADVERTISEMENT

In the interests of Fair Play, please sign this letter and send it to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London,
W1

Address

Dear Mrs Thatcher,
Legislation for Fair Play

The true role of the Government is the maintenance of law and order and the defence of the realm. Over the years, successive governments have become more and more involved in other things and at greater and greater cost. It is now time to reduce government by enacting legislation to ensure Fair Play.

The end of direct taxation

Personal income tax, company tax and rates are probably the biggest single factor in driving away from this country the most talented income producing people and companies. They should be phased out.

The end of State Social Security

Everyone who owns a car knows he needs to insure it. He does so through the insurance company that suits him best. The same principle of choice to get the best should apply to health and unemployment insurance.

Giving nationalised industries back to the nation

The nationalised industries should be turned into competing limited liability companies with shares given to the nation's tax paying population in proportion to the personal income tax each person has paid over the last three years.

Tight control of immigration

Each immigrant should be given the 'right of abode' in this country once he's earned it. Legislation for Fair Play would limit the number of immigrants from any one country to the number of British citizens granted similar rights in the immigrant's country of origin.

A British referendum on Northern Ireland

Just as the Northern Irish were asked by ballot whether or not they wished to remain a part of Britain, so the population of the UK should be asked if they want Northern Ireland to be part of the UK. If a clear majority say "No" then the Government should negotiate our independence from Northern Ireland. If the answer is "Yes", then effective action should be taken to ensure that the same standards, criteria and educational practices that apply in the UK are applied to Northern Ireland.

Law abiding, democratic trade unionism

Just as the Magna Carta applied to all men including the King, so the law that applies to you and I should also apply to the Trade Unions. Fair Play legislation would ensure that those who claim to lead the Unions are elected by the majority, and by secret ballot.

Profit sharing for all

Salaries and wages should be fixed so that management and labour can discuss how to increase profits and not bicker about unearned wage increases. Profits should be divided equally between further investment, shareholders and employees.

Smaller families

Our island is crowded. The shums of today are being replaced by the shums of tomorrow. We can no longer bring our children up in the expectation that there will be work for them. Incentives should be given to limit the number of children in any one family to two.

Repealing outdated legislation

Much of our life is governed by restrictive legislation. Fair Play legislation would mean that shops, banks and pubs would stay open to suit their customers not the law. "Three gentlemen please!" does not belong in Britain in the 1980's.

Mrs Thatcher, you have demonstrated your tenacity, courage and resolve. You have the time in office to enact legislation for Fair Play and with it effect a fundamental change back to individualism and back to greater prosperity for all.

Yours sincerely,

signed by:

Issued in the interests of Fair Play by R. Bale, 456 Allerton Road, Liverpool.

Economy dominates New Zealand election Muldoon survives Melbourne

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington, Oct 12

It would be an injustice to Mr Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister, to dismiss his headline snatching performance at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference as no more than a ploy to promote a vote-winning image at home.

True, Mr Muldoon has a general election on November 28 and his ruling National Party has a fight on its hands to stay in power. But he thought it better to go to Melbourne ready to turn any attack upon New Zealand's hosting of the South African rugby visit with an arsenal of complaints about black Africa's record on human rights.

However startled the Commonwealth leaders were at his tenacity and provocations, his conduct did not greatly surprise New Zealanders. They are used to his bruising frankness. What they were witnessing was vintage Muldoonism. Half the electorate love him for it, the other half seem equally distressed by it.

It remains a moot point, therefore, whether anything he said in Australia, however outrageous and disturbing to the diplomatic niceties of these occasions, will alter the electoral balance. What he may have gained from the swings of his populist criticism of the Melbourne Declaration on aid to the underdeveloped countries he may have lost on the roundabouts of the Commonwealth isolation with which New Zealand now appears threatened.



Election challenge from Mr Wallace Rowling (top) and Mr Bruce Beetham.



Mr Muldoon can draw satisfaction from the fact that the latest opinion poll, conducted before Melbourne but during the closing stages of the controversial Springbok tour, still has him as the politician New Zealanders most want as Prime Minister.

Mr Muldoon enjoys a considerable lead over Mr Bruce Beetham, the personable leader of the Social

Credit League, a party of rising fortunes, and Mr Wallace Rowling, the low-key leader of Labour, the main opposition party.

Mr Muldoon successfully led the assault against the Labour administration in 1975. Three years later his Government was returned, though it polled fewer votes than Labour.

The present state of the parties is: National 50; Labour 40; Social Credit 2. The Government's majority is more vulnerable than these figures suggest because 10 of its seats are held by fewer than 1,000 votes.

The Government is worried about the Social Credit challenge, particularly in the rural areas where it might gain enough votes to let Labour in. The prospect of a Parliament in which Social Credit holds the balance of power is not being ruled out.

The election campaign proper begins on November 2 when Mr Muldoon fires the first shots, but electoral preoccupations are already apparent.

The Springbok tour issue and Mr Muldoon's record at Melbourne are not expected to figure prominently. The overriding issue will be the state of the economy — the 15 per cent level of inflation, the absence of growth, and unemployment figures higher than at any time since the 1930s. This is where the Government is most at risk.

Mr Muldoon was promoted in 1975 as something of an economic miracle worker but the economy, for reasons not always the Government's fault, has gone down steadily since.

THE ARTS

Television

'Brideshead': a brilliant and sensual impact

Michael Ratcliffe (below) finds the first episodes of Granada's *Brideshead Revisited* "irresistibly seductive", and Bryan Appleyard (right) talks to Sir John Gielgud, who plays Edward Ryder

Nancy Mitford, to whom Waugh sent an early copy of *Brideshead Revisited*, had only two complaints. Diamond clips were not invented before 1930, and the narrator was lacking in glamour. "He seemed to me a tiny bit dim."

I quite see how the person who tells us, but then would Julia and her brother and her sister all be in love with him if he was?" Since she herself fell exclusively in love with men her clever friends considered a tiny bit dim, she answered the question without stopping for breath. It is true that Charles Ryder rarely stands in the bright sunlight like Sebastian or Anthony Blanche, but only a first impression of *Brideshead* — which is, after all, his book — would find Charles uninteresting, and, by placing him at the front of the stage and casting Jeremy Irons in the role, Granada's script-writer (John Mortimer) and producer (Derek Granger) took the first and most important step towards what, to judge from the superb first two episodes, seems certain to be a triumph of beauty, fidelity and relevant embellishment — in short a hit. Nobody would deny Mr Irons glamour of both person and intelligence or claim he could ever give the impression of being dim. He has the actor's great gift of attentiveness and response and he communicates them so easily that when he is spellbound by Sebastian, his family and their great house, the spell binds us, too, even when Anthony Andrews immaculately (and correctly) pitches Sebastian's takes up only a few pages in the novel, but it brings the film to a pitch of visual

spirit, humour and feeling, defenceless before his father's malevolence and darkened already with premonition of loss.

The narrator's place at the heart of the drama itself is strengthened at every point by Geoffrey Burdon's score which, based on a simple four-note figure, flows and modulates between ecstasy, alarm and grief, reflecting the patterns of Charles Ryder's mind in the tone-colours of Henry Purcell, master, like Evelyn Waugh, of melancholy and the English baroque. It is rare for screen music to reflect so exactly not only what is being seen, but what is going on behind it, and to sound as if it is doing so, like Charles himself, through a screen of memory, snatching at an Arcadian dream.

It looks gorgeous. Landscape description was never Waugh's forte, yet physical setting had as acute an effect on his character as on the writer himself. For *Brideshead* the directors (Charles Sturridge for the most part, Michael Lindsay-Hogg in the earlier filming), lighting cameraman (Ray Goode) and film editor (Anthony Ham) have commanded visions of Oxford, Castle Howard and Venice with the sensual intensity always implied, but rarely stated, for fear of emulating the prose, in the book. Charles is, after all, an Englishman who, through Sebastian, discovers a world of dizzying images and structural daring far beyond English domesticity and the teachings of Roger Fry: the Venetian episode (next week) takes up only a few pages in the novel, but it brings the film to a pitch of visual



Sebastian Flyte (Anthony Andrews, foreground) and Charles Ryder (Jeremy Irons) picnic on their journey from Oxford to Brideshead Castle

perfection which illustrates the bliss of delayed childhood which can only disintegrate — a brief excursion to the storm-swept Lido of Visconti's *Death in Venice* underlines the point. From then on, the film's narrative is a succession of happiness at first funny, then appalling. "I went to Venice," Charles tells his father. "Yes, yes, I suppose so. The weather was fine?" John Gielgud gives Edward Ryder a desolate and calculating malice which carries, almost singlehandedly, the element of human cruelty in Waugh's imaginative world. It is a crucial performance of the film, certainly the toughest and probably the best he has ever given on television.

Waugh's genius in *Brideshead* lies in the density and resonance of the dialogue and commentary. Mortimer, writer enough himself to have seen this, is totally faithful to the former and retains enough of the narrative in Irons's voice to sustain the shape and temper of the original prose. Resonance on the page, however, can only be sustained on screen by faces, by acting right through to match the quality of the direction, principals and music, and Granger's *Brideshead* is the best cast television show since *Edward and Mrs Simpson*: from the phillistine Hooper (Richard Hope) and trumpeting ass of a C.O. (John Nettleton) to Sebastian's joyless brother (Simon Jones)

and Charles's preposterous cousin (an exceptionally funny performance by Stephen Moore) there is no false note, whilst Nicholas Grace has the selflessness to make Anthony Blanche as vicious and unamusing as Charles Ryder found him and his model, Brian Howard, surely was. So far, so irresistibly seductive, then, which is also the received wisdom on the novel itself. The true test, the trial of a family in the faith seen by the man who loves them without understanding it, is still to come. This was the nerve from which, 35 years ago, MCM recoiled aghast and there is a very good chance indeed that it will now be grasped firmly for the first time.

Just before seeing *Brideshead Revisited* for the first time Sir John Gielgud lunched on Cinzano, one dozen oysters, white wine and coffee at Sheekey's. "I've only seen the rushes, not the whole first episode. Is it any good?"

At 77 he still has a tentative, sensitive air about the response to his work and is delighted to hear that Anthony Burgess thought that both he and Olivier gave the greatest performances of their careers. "It is the first thing we have appeared together in since a production of *Romeo and Juliet* in 1935."

In fact the two did not meet during the making of *Brideshead* but Gielgud says, perhaps mischievously, that Olivier really wanted his part of Edward Ryder, which he plays, instead of Lord Marchmain. But too much time has passed now for Gielgud to play along with any more stories of a great rivalry between them. His admiration for Olivier is uninhibited. He particularly envies the energy. "He spends ages preparing for parts, gymnastics and things. I'm too lazy. I just go along and hope that I will be inspired."

Gielgud's appearance in the first episode took about ten days of filming, and he did prepare himself to the extent of rereading the novel. And evidently he enjoyed himself. Gielgud's praise and generosity is so widely scattered across his experiences that only by noting slightly fainter hymns of admiration is it possible to establish those for whom he has less than total respect.

For Charles Sturridge, *Brideshead*'s young director, he comes up with something close to canonization. "He reminded me of a young Peter Brook sitting there in his plumage thinking. I trusted his judgment. It is not right for somebody like me to be given too much respect. It is harmful to be deferred to too much... or to be too



"A crucial performance of palpable relish"

disparaged. I think it went very well."

All of which gives him reasonable confidence about the success of *Brideshead*, though he is nervous about the Americans, concerned they may not understand a word. Meanwhile he is enjoying vast success over there with the film *Arthur* — due here in December — in which he plays Dudley Moore's butler. It was a part he turned down twice because of the highly risqué dialogue, having been made nervous of such an involvement by the *Caligula* fiasco. But finally he took it, realizing the potential of combining his English hauteur with some frank crudity.

The rest of Gielgud's recent career has been a curious affair involving a mass of small parts in dozens of films, suggesting a slightly indiscriminate quality which has been the despair of his lifetime admirers. "But they pay me very well for two or three days' work a month, so why not? It's nice at my age to be able to travel all over the world at other people's expense."

For the rest of the month he seems to do very little. "I know nothing about business or sport or politics. I now rather wish I had learnt to swim. I took up some gardening this summer — I have this beautiful house and I read all the time, anything at all, thrillers, biographies."

But, over the last of the oysters, one hard ambition does emerge. He wants a major stage part. Last year Sir Peter Hall attempted to involve him in a production of *King Lear* at the National but he pulled out at the prospect of overseas tours and anything to do with promotions. "Oh, you have to go along with all that Parkinson-Harry stuff and meet hundreds of people. I really do not like meeting large crowds of people. It was Richardson who persuaded me to appear on a chat show last time."

He also, it emerges, loathes the National Theatre. "It's like a toad, don't you think? The dressing rooms are uncomfortable and the only decent theatre is the Cottesloe and that's like a coffin. I tried to persuade them to put a sign on the top to brighten it up but they said the architect had control for two years or something."

He yearns essentially for the theatre routine, the night after night of improving or changing a performance rather than the days sitting in a caravan waiting for a film crew to prepare themselves. These days he generally fills these waits with remembering the names of his school friends or assistant stage managers from early productions. "I am really a prosaic arch man. I went to a production at the Round House the other day and they had their back to me all the time. I think it was a marvellous production but I can't say I enjoyed myself very much."

The wonderful thing about being an actor is that you get your reward while you're here. There's no other art like it. Poets and painters can be completely unrecognized until after they are dead. It must be dreadful."

Castor et Pollux

Covent Garden

The crowded activity of the English Bach Festival in May each year is not enough for its indefatigable founder, Lina Lalandi. On Sunday evening, as for anyone between the last and the next EBF, she borrowed the Royal Opera House to stage one performance of Rameau's so-called tragic opera, *Castor et Pollux*.

None of us can go and see a Rameau opera every day, particularly one staged so scrupulously in the style of the period. For anyone with an interest in the history of opera, this one-off *Castor* was an invaluable museum exhibit, a complement to modern experience of Handel's contemporaneous opera seria, seldom so stylishly done.

It was to some extent made possible by the EBF's Rameau productions in previous years: the same costumes, and much of the same scenery, will do for them all (and for Handel

and Hasse and Scarlatti, no doubt), so that Mme Lalandi's budget can be concentrated on rehearsal and performance. The EBF's *Castor et Pollux* is not being permitted to vanish at once, though readers who missed it in London at the weekend will have to catch it in Monte Carlo in December, Paris in January or Athens later next year.

Rameau was 50 before he essayed the lyric stage. *Castor et Pollux* was his second opera. Seventeen years later, during the famous and ridiculous squabble about the merits of French opera-ballet and Italian operatic farce, known as the *guerre des bouffons*, he made a substantially revised version of *Castor*. History books discuss the first version, the EBF has opted for the revision, with fewer recitatives, and clearer action including the rejection of an allegorical prologue in favour of an expository first act, which should have been included all the time.

Castor et Pollux is the story of the Dioscuri, or Gemini, or Heavenly Twins, sons of

Leda, born from the same egg but by different fathers, one mortal, the other Zeus himself. The mortal, Castor, is killed, but Pollux offers to take his place in Hades so that Castor can return to life and marry the lady they both love. Jupiter resolves the problem by turning both into stars, and their mutual beloved as well.

Rameau followed his revered predecessor, Lully, in making drama as important as song to his operas, a tradition that persisted in France, and roused Wagner to thoughts of the "total work of art" which still eludes opera composers. His vocal music, less strictly patterned than that of his Italian contemporaries — the 1754 *Castor* drifts into and out of aria all the time, and seldom descends to recitative, even then melodiously — flatters a good singer.

In this cast Ian Caddy's Pollux had the lion's share, and he made the most of it, with handsome baritone, clear words and a cogent presence. In the last two acts, Peter Jeffes as Castor had,

and took, the opportunity to draw level. Jennifer Smith responded suitably to the formal, but musically gratifying, part of Telaira. Smaller parts were cast from strength (several singers were working a free night from the Glyndebourne touring *Midsummer Night's Dream*).

Charles Farncombe and the EBF Baroque Orchestra put our ears in trim with the pleasantly dry and prickly parts of the overture. The principals gestured in Tom Hawkes's production with the poses and movements familiar from old pictures and textbooks: the effect was strange yet perfectly appropriate, like the dancing of the many ballets, devised by Belinda Quirey.

Some enthusiasts want to bring old operas into the present time, and usually they fail, because the two times are out of joint. Far better to treat a museum-piece as such: that is the EBF method and I wish it every success in influencing the planning of the world's opera companies.

William Mann

Opera

Music in New York

Wagnerian extremities

In the American house of music there are presently many mansions. The mainstream mansion contains the work of John Harbison (born 1938), who provides an individual voice of welcome invention and — rare today — of sharply defined musical identity. The Piano Quintet, commissioned by the festival, is a five-movement work of contrast, beauty and stature culminating in an Elegy, arising from Harbison's family concerns, understated yet poignant in its fragmented expressions of grief. Harbison's music-making tends to smaller scale, akin to Fauré's, which often conceals his merits, but his melodic gestures — using confined, self-contained motifs woven with structural felicity — remain wholly personal. Harbison's work, now receiving much critical attention, steadily gains in its assurance and individuality.

The basilica that contains the group of Americans loosely termed "minimalists" has recently been much written about. They are, in truth, a very disparate lot, perhaps ultimately referring back to the guru John Cage but in fact seeking their own, quite distinct, ends. One feature, however, common to most of them is a concern with mystical transcendentalism, usually centering around the religions and music of India. La Monte Young (born 1935) pursues his own goals with a relentless and single-minded perseverance, and in his recent concerts has arrived at a set frame for his aural experiments.

Young's music, like that of other American composers such as the late Harry Partch, demands its own instruments and ideally the composer as performer, but Young in addition posits his own environment. This is Wagner's Bayreuth carried to its extreme. Young has found it in what used to be the trading floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange. His major work, which has been evolving since 1964, is entitled *The Well-Tuned Piano*, and is written for a grand piano, which has been strictly "rationally" tuned so that the overtones come into exact alignment. The piano he uses is a custom-built Bösendorfer Imperial, because that instrument, with its plangent bass and sonority of tone, is ideal for his overtone experiments. The Bösendorfer is kept in one position, in the room, which is at a constant temperature/humidity level, so that the tuning is exact and is used for performances of the work — unamplified — on Sundays and for playbacks of tapes made from that performance — unedited — during the week.

But the environmental surrounding includes more. The polished wood floor of the large room is partly covered with pile rugs, and the listener must remove his shoes to enter it. The room is in gloom, lit by magenta lights focusing on aluminum mobiles hanging in a precise pattern from the ceiling which, as they slowly turn in the air currents, refract and change colour. The listener is asked to sit, lie, stand or move about (silently) in the environment during the work, which lasts more than four hours — even go out and re-enter later or another day. I attended the midweek playback session, ghostly because of the huge silent

piano while its sounds came from speakers. The work itself stretches outward from a beginning and ends with a struggle and allowed to decay in overtones, gradually building up tones and overtones, with rolling tremolos out of which tones emerge and are subsumed. The piece is sequential, but the order of the sections can be changed or repeated so that each performance is unique. Each section has its own title — for example *The Magic Harmonic Reinforced Chorus* or *The Ethers Churn (The Dinosaurs Dance)* — but the separate entities were not as graspable, on first hearing, as was the unfolding of the work from moment to moment, like some Chinese scroll or, more pertinently, like Indian music.

The sonorous beauties of the prepared Imperial Bösendorfer are thoroughly explored and elaborated: I felt as if I was being washed by wave after wave of tuned bells — the *Vallee des Cloches* extending to the infinite. The hall, with its four structural pillars, recalled certain European cathedrals with nameless organists practicing their Sunday fugues. The interaction of the music and the space, and the music and one's mind, is focal to Young's compositional practice, for, although on one level it is organized and controlled as "pure music", it is meant to be experienced beyond the conscious mind.

Young has produced music which, at least in the context of its controlled environment, is much more than a mystic superficial son et lumière. There was something immensely satisfying about *The Well-Tuned Piano*, satisfying in its positive sense. Young had, as Charles Ives asked, stretched his ears.

Patrick J. Smith

Galleries

De Staël's vivid communications

Nicolas de Staël

Tate Gallery

Nicolas de Staël: Drawings and Engraved Works

Taranman

John Hoyland/Kenneth Noland/David Tremlett

Waddington Galleries

Of course there is some comparing of notes among critics. Not, as paranoid artists tend to imagine, because we are ganging up on an agreed line, but because we happen to know one another, meet at the same private views or screenings or first nights, and naturally chat about what interests us most. Actually, the effect is usually to define or emphasize differences rather than to ensure uniformity. This is often the explanation of an otherwise inexplicable defensive/aggressive note in reviews. Discovering that others do not share devotion to a favourite artist, one may well start answering charges before they are made.

Take Nicolas de Staël. As must have been evident from my comments in May on the big retrospective of his work in Paris, he is one of my most intense personal delights in all painting, a painter I am sure anyone could fail to enjoy. And yet, now that the show has arrived at the Tate Gallery (until November 29) in an abbreviated form, I hear around me several expressions of very modified rapture, and some of downright dislike or outright dismissal. That is not a bad thing; at least it makes me aware of a need to examine more closely my own reactions. If I have to argue a case, it is just as well that I should know quite precisely what that case is.

First of all, why do I find Staël so extraordinarily satisfying as a painter? The initial response is the most basic, visceral one: the sheer sensuous delight he feels, and conveys with such vividness, in colour and the physical pleasure of moving it around a canvas. In Staël's case it goes far beyond tactile qualities: one could eat his paint, lick it, smell it, roll it in it. Look at one of the later paintings in which he returned to the human figure after a period of abstraction: say *Les Indes Galantes* (1953), inspired by a visit to the theatre, in which there is a woman in pink, smiling and possibly (or possibly not) a man behind in blues, against a blue and grey background. Look at it, and then open yourself to it as a synaesthetic experience. It becomes difficult to say whether you are seeing it or hearing it, or tasting it, so



The certainty of "Portrait of Jeannine"

intense and pure is the sensation it evokes — all from the instinctive yet precise placing of patches of rich, creamy colour, like and unlike, one against another.

The usual argument is to dismiss this as decorative but unambitious: where, hostile critics want to know, is the fundamental brainwork? One need only read Staël's letters to his dealer, Jacques Dubourg, recently published in a volume of remarkable elegance by Taranman London (E15), to see that he was no jhinny, and had very clear and sensible ideas about painting and life (even his death, by his own hand at the age of 41, was approached with alarming clarity), but in his painting it is the hand and eye that think, leaving the intellectual parts aside. In this sense he was the most sensuously gifted of natural painters, even the earliest works in the show, such as the much-reproduced *Portrait of Janine* and the first abstracts from 1942-44, have unquestioning certainty in what they are doing. He makes painting look easy because that is what it was to him.

It is a quality we do not complain about in Mozart — a certain divine ease and confidence that things will come out right. We are perhaps more ready to feel doubts in relation to Staël because of the time in which he lived. How is it possible for a painter who came to prominence in the 1940s and

reached his peak in the early 1950s (he died in 1955) to be so happy? (As a painter, that is, evidently his personal life must have had its problems.) Should he not have been worrying about the Problem of Representation instead of moving to and fro between figurative and non-figurative just as instinct guided him? How could he have been living through those years and kept right on painting exquisite modern patches of grey (if you have never seen a Staël, you have never seen the full wonder of grey) or sun and sea and bottles and jars and heaven help us, seagulls, which even before Jonathan Livingston were pretty dodgy as a subject of art unless actually moving in for the kill?

Maybe my feelings about Staël are tinged with nostalgia. The big show at Whitechapel in 1956 was one of the first I saw when I came to live in London and in those far-off days the generation of art he represented — New York Abstract Expressionists, Paris Tachistes — was Modern Art personified, with all the attendant excitements of new discovery. One never quite gets over first love. But, by the same token, they have all been going, for nearly 20 years now, through a period of such unfashionability that it has been hard even to look at a box of them. Though never, for me Staël. And as aesthetic thought was tending in the direction of, ultimately, conceptual art, in which the enjoyment of making and the

sensuous delights of seeing what has been made were rigorously excluded as virtually beneath contempt, naturally Staël and his kind were likely to provoke very little sympathy.

Let us hope that the show at the Tate will help to reverse all of that. Even though it is short of 44 out of 121 paintings — including, oddly enough, nearly all that I picked out as a particular commendation in Paris, especially from among the wonderful late paintings — and all the drawings, it still remains a beacon to light the gloom of the gallery's wing. Happily the absence of drawings (some of which, though the simplest black-and-white, are very large) is somewhat compensated by the appearance at the Taranman Gallery, 236 Brompton Road, until the end of November of a small but very choice selection of Staël drawings from all periods of his career, plus a complete collection of his book-work. Though some of the drawings and most of the etchings appear to have been done in a forlorn, unworldly way, there is such economy, such a sense of structure, that they should still forever the doubts of those whose residual puritanism makes them mistrustful of too much obvious pleasure, too its evidence of hard labour, both in the way an artist works and in the way they themselves respond. There is no reason in the world why art should not be easy.

But being easy is not, any more than being hard, the whole of the story. I quite believe that John Hoyland's painting comes easily to him; he is certainly very prolific, though he has now given up his long practice of tiding paintings with the date on which he did them, so that we cannot tell all more just at what speed he has been working. It is, I suspect, unfortunate for him that his show of recent paintings should open at the Waddington at the same time as the Staël (it continues until October 31). Staël provides an easy, and therefore possibly unfair, stick to beat him with.

Hoyland's colours are as cheery as Staël's, though coarser and selected with less discrimination. In this show, after the great wodge of brilliant colour in his *Serpentine* show and last Waddington appearance, he is in loosely defined but recognizable formal shapes, particularly squares and cubes. The overall effect is exuberant but rather empty.

While you are at the Waddington you might as well look at Kenneth Noland's recent work next door — oddly shaped, uniformly painted canvases with strips of contrasting or complementary colours — and the edges, tasteful but a bit silly — and David Tremlett's large outline drawings on white, which look nice in a light, airy, modern gallery-space but would surely inspire few to take them home.

John Russell Taylor

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THE CAST

In order of appearance:
Gianni Versace — a Sicilian tailor.
Roberto — a handsome merchant, friend to Gianni.
Britannica — a beautiful young English woman, sought after by Gianni.
The Princess of Wales — a young woman of noble birth.
Nigel, Ann and Roger — British designers, suitors to Britannica.
Chorus of Bond Street merchants.

The action takes place in Gianni's shop at 35 Brook Street, London W.1.

THE PLOT

Gianni Versace, son of a Sicilian peasant, now greatly loved by the fashion aristocracy in Milan, arrives in London to inspect his newly opened shop. His friend Roberto introduces him to Britannica, the beautiful young English woman whom he longs to dress.

Gianni attempts to seduce Britannica with his sumptuous pleated suede jodhpurs, in a romantic aria *Ecco bellicino* (Oh so beautiful...), he tells of his passion for suede and leather and how it has made his reputation across the world.

Britannica shyly admits that she has other suitors, the leading British designers, who have made similar breeches and jodhpurs, which are already in her wardrobe.

Roberto angrily intervenes on behalf of his friend and passionately pleads for Britannica's attention. In a soaring lyric melody *Noi Siamo* (We are the champions...) he tells Britannica that Gianni is the first and the best. He has put the world's fashionable women in jodhpurs; his sensuous sueded and silks already clothe American women, diplomats' wives, Argentine heiresses and even the disdainful French.

Now all that remains to complete his happiness is to dress Britannica.

Three British fashion designers enter. In an angry chorus they claim the soft suede breeches and leather jodhpurs as their own. *Nostri pantaloni* (Our trousers) and triumphantly produce the beautiful young Princess of Wales, wearing knee breeches to prove their case.

A pitched battle ensues in Bond Street, with each side swearing revenge over the body of Britannica, who brings the conflict to an end by her moving aria *Tutti Frutti* (I love them all...). She cannot choose between the seductive suede and leather clothes and doubts if she can afford any of them. But she tells Gianni that his trousers are the most beautiful of all.

Together they sing the romantic duet *Sempre Mio* (You will always be the one...).

Gianni returns to Milan, confident that he has won Britannica's heart and hips. Roberto and the merchants of Bond Street join in the triumphal chorus *Belle pelle* (Skin is beautiful) to the orchestral accompaniment of tinkling tills.



Above: Ginger suede gathered knickerbockers by Nigel Preston for Maxfield Parrish, £160 from Harrods; Feathers; Taylor and Hadow, Knightsbridge; Parkers, Brook Street, W1; Ideal Clothes, Stratford-upon-Avon; Moon 4, Glasgow. Ruffled and printed suede blouse by Maxfield Parrish in ginger, burgundy, brown or olive, about £175 from Harvey Nichols; Harrods; Parkers, Brook Street, W1; Elle Shops; Look of Halifax; Poppinjay of Old Portsmouth. Tapestry Principal Boy pumps, £39.99 at Derber, 77 New Bond Street, Kensington, Nottingham, Manchester. Gilded mahogany bangles and earrings by Valerie Robertson from Harvey Nichols; Liberty; Howie, Long Acre, WC2.

Left: Leather jerkin with drawstring shoulders by Mulberry, £110, matching breeches, £135, both from Mulberry, 32 St Christopher's Place; Harvey Nichols 21 Shop; Hobby Cardiff. Fair Isle patterned sweater by Mulberry, £39.50, from Harrods, Jeunesses, Worcester. Open-weave stole around head by Mulberry from Fortnum and Mason, Kew Gazette, Gobblewinks, Windsor; Leo Kadia, Bristol. Cavalier boots by Jordache, £49.50, at Chelsea Cobbler, 54 King's Road and Fulham; Way In at Harrods; Drizzle Department, Harvey Nichols. Bronze belt by Otto Glanz. Earrings and bangle by Valerie Robertson. Make-up by Christina Saunders for Revlon using their bold Gypsy Gold range. Hair by Dar at Clifford Stafford.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICK BRIGGS

London Designer Week

The plot outlined above is not just a jolly jape. It also reflects the aggressive mood of British fashion designers as the London Designer Week opens. They aim to convince the posse of international buyers who have flown in from Milan, and who leave for Paris on Friday, that we are now an important watering hole on the marketable clothes circuit.

Britain is already internationally renowned for classic fashion exports: Burberrys, cashmere and tweed. Over the last decade, London has also become the evening wear capital of the fashion world, with our quirky and romantic view of dressing up now endorsed by manufacturers world-wide.

Last season, the export buyers who came to the London showings discovered two more strands of success: leather wear and hand-knitting. I wrote last month about our imaginative and export-orientated hand-knits. You can see on this page our inventiveness and flair with skins.

Placing the designer part of London's fashion week as the delectable filling between the lumpy sandwich of the other European shows is an attempt to prove that British style is original, but practical; and that it has a style of its own worth looking at before the Paris big guns are fired.

I will be reporting next week on the runway shows by the top British designers. But an advance look at the collections now on view to the trade at the Hyde Park Hotel in Knightsbridge shows our designers in a controlled romantic mood.

The Edwardian nursery and dinner table have inspired a cluster of white collars, sailor shapes in stiff piqué, schoolroom squares of organza, wing collars in crisp cotton, often shown with a soft satin bow.

So the romantic feel that we do so well continue, but with few frills and mostly as just a soft touch to practical and wearable summer clothes. Favourite fabrics are linen, especially in white and with delicate details like fagotting

and open work. Stripes are the strongest print story, although collages of colour appear in the folkloric clothes always popular for summer holiday wear.

The evening brings us the short ball gown, a new silhouette and a more down-to-earth version of high romance.

The rest of the London showing season, including the inimitable Zandra Rhodes, takes place at Olympia after the Paris shows at the end of next week.

Expert view

The entertaining and engaging Norman Parkinson offers a treat for fashion buffs at 6.30 pm next Monday when he asks the double-edged question: "Is there fashion in photography?" That is the title of the talk he is giving to the Friends of Fashion at the Museum of London (London Wall, EC2) with illustrations from his own photographic archives. Tickets £1.50 from the museum.

Paul Theroux, the author who rediscovered the adventure of long-distance railway travel, this week publishes his eighteenth book, a substantial novel in which he explores the emergence of a new American Dream. Alan Hamilton meets the quiet Bostonian who, after years as a teacher and traveller in the less-civilized corners of the globe, has made his home in the unfashionable hinterland of south London

Theroux at the junction

It seemed appropriate to visit the author of *The Great Railway Bazaar* and *The Old Patagonian Express* by train. Paul Theroux lives in the seedy environs of Clapham Junction, a harrowing seven-minute expedition from Waterloo without benefit of buffet car. When you have earned a living riding rails to the armpits of the world, it is a relief to be handy for town.

Today Theroux publishes his eighteenth book, *The Mosquito Coast*, a substantial novel which has nothing to do with trains but a great deal to do with nasty, benighted corners of the earth. It is set in Honduras, the nastiest place he could find within easy reach of the United States, and concerns the Fox family who pull up the roots of their settled Massachusetts life to hack fresh pastures from the jungle.

Honduras is the ultimate banana republic, run as much by the Standard Fruit Company of the United States as by its government. O. Henry holed up there while on the run from the FBI, and great tracts of its map are devoid of any place names. Theroux made two trips there, and wrote with the map on his study wall.

'They remain to complain'

He sees his new book, whose title refers to the evil eastern seaboard of that country, as a latterday *Swiss Family Robinson* without the nauseating goodness, a *Treasure Island* without the treasure, a tale of castaways in which harsh reality replaces the traditional escape by penknife-carved boat into the glowing sunset.

He explained: "Recently Americans have begun to say: 'This used to be a great country, but now it is too expensive and too crowded. The quality of life is worse than it has ever been. Dammit, we've had enough.' The English have said it for years, but it is a new attitude in America."

"Yet Americans never follow it through, even when they become rich. They complain, and remain, unlike the British who tend to bolt as soon as they have made a pile. So I created a character, a bold, strong, inventive man — a bit of a tyrant even — who would follow it through. He is a bit like my father, who was always daring us as kids — you know, 'I'll give you a quarter if you sit on that rock until the tide comes in'. That sort of thing."

Theroux considers that Americans make hopeless colonists, and quite dreadful imperialists; they are, he says, too trusting, take everyone at his word, and think money will achieve everything. "Just look at American Samoa; only 11,000 people and an annual budget of 70 million dollars. As a society, it's a disaster."

Yet Theroux himself, a 40-year old Bostonian with the soft near-English accent of a well-travelled Ivy Leaguer, has spent most of his adult life abroad, much of it as a teacher in corners like Uganda, Malawi and Singapore, all of which have been British colonies at one time. He has lived in England for ten years. Is he not bordering on an emigrant himself?



Paul Theroux: liking big-city anonymity

commuting between Britain and Boston, Ireland's largest overseas possession. "Every one over there asks me about Northern Ireland. I take no sides. To me it is just savage tribal warfare; I saw the same between rival tribes in Uganda."

Could he ever see himself as Allie Fox, the hero of *The Mosquito Coast* who takes American technology to the primitives of Honduras and builds a giant ice-making machine in the jungle?

"Not exactly. But I do have a dream, to go to some primitive corner of the world and set up a school, to create something and get it going. It would be better than retiring to Eastbourne." He certainly has the required experience: in Malawi he ran a school where, instead of beatings, his scale of punishments involved making bricks for the new school lavatory — one brick for cheek, 20 for smoking hashish.

On the rails of a dream

Theroux is philosophical about being far better known for his train books than his novels. "I feel I wrote the railway books with my left hand, although I brought a novelist's approach to the task. But I am afraid that novel reading is a minority interest."

Another left-handed railway book is already being marshalled in his mind, this time riding the rails of Cecil Rhodes' dream from the Cape to Cairo (apart of course for the bit in southern Sudan and northern Uganda where they never joined up). He will, one presumes, be gazing out of the window looking for somewhere to start a school. And, unlike Allie Fox, he has every intention of buying a return ticket.

British respect for privacy

"Not at all. Since they brought in £100 standby fares across the Atlantic, no American in England can call himself an exile. I spend four months of the year back home, and I have a house on Cape Cod. I stay here because my children are in school, and because I like the anonymity of the big city, and the British respect for privacy."

"The British way of dealing with strangers is to leave them alone. They don't gush, as Americans do. It has something to do with this being a crowded island; everyone needs to set up his own private territory around himself, otherwise life would be intolerable."

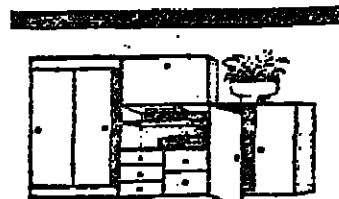
When he first came to England he tried living in Dorset, but there is no privacy in the country, where everyone knows his neighbour and his neighbour's business. Nor could his wife find work; now she has a job in the BBC World Service.

But there are problems of



Above: Pewter leather breeches by Bridget Woods, £130 at Teamwork, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1; Polo, Marylebone High Street; Way In at Harrods. Armoured sweater, hand-knitted and studded in pewter, yellow, rust, black and cream. By Artwork, £91 from 33 St Christopher's Place, W1. Studded leather belt by Otto Glanz, £11.95 from Fenwick, Brent Cross. Studded leather boots in black, bronze or wine from Rayne, 66 New Bond Street; Harrods and Harvey Nichols.

Right: Long blouson jacket with appliqué leaf trim by Ann Buck in Pitard's leather, £270, matching breeches £174. From Lucienne Phillips, Knightsbridge; Chic of Hampstead; Emma Somerset, Manchester and Wilmslow. Katherine Draisley of Birmingham. Bronze boots by Beene Bag, £48 at London branches of Chelsea Cobbler, Rayne, Bond Street and Brompton Road, Harrods, Way In and Harvey Nichols. Bold bronze earrings by Valerie Robertson, £16 from Liberty and Howie, Long Acre, WC2.



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Mrs Thatcher's war on economic ignorance

First, a quotation from the leader of the Labour Party. He insisted that "coldly calculated policies headed Britain back again towards the unemployment of the 1930s."

He especially condemned Tory "treatment of school leavers; school leavers without jobs... When they seek to leave school to venture into the wider world, there is no place for them in the Tory market economy." He criticized the Prime Minister personally for "an obsession with a market economy."

This quotation is not from yesterday's *Times*, but from October 6, 1971. We have been here before, but most of us fail to realize it. Do we never learn economic lessons? Unless we do, we shall constantly be reliving history — and doing so badly, out of ignorance.

For that ignorance, the childishness of our media bears a heavy share of blame. Most of what passes for political comment is rehearsed gossip, devoid of analytical rigour or historical insight. Together with the educational system, the media is largely responsible for the immaturity of our elite.

It is debatable, therefore, whether politicians are more sinned against than sinning in the lack of historical perspective. What is certain is that, unlike good businesses, previous British governments have lacked a mechanism for organized learning.

The confusion of our present economic debate is thus worse even than we think. We could have learned more lessons from 1970-73. But we have not.

D. C. Hague, an adviser to the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, argues that the economic lesson of the 1970s has not been learnt. It is, he says, that the Government must pursue its present policies.

What are those lessons? First, we advocated ludicrously high growth rates. During the 1960s attempts to raise real gdp by more than 3 per cent a year had led to balance of payments crises. Yet in 1971-72 commentators argued that 5 per cent growth would not create bottlenecks in the economy and that without such stimulus unemployment would not fall.

In 1973 there was 5 per cent growth, but also soaring inflation and a massive balance of payments deficit which, even without the oil price crisis, would have required policies to halt growth and raise unemployment. Conventional wisdom overstated the maximum feasible growth rate, as it had done throughout the 1960s and as it does today.

Second, the Government favoured laxity in both fiscal and monetary policy. Huge tax cuts were not offset by tight monetary policy, even though the media acknowledged that monetary laxity was responsible for rapidly rising house prices. The 1971 Budget set a target of 12 per cent growth for the money supply, against 3 per cent for output, implying a 9 per cent inflation target. By 1972, with the money supply rising at nearly twice

the target rate, commentators took the line which many take today. Though acknowledging that monetary growth was high by any standards, they took refuge in doubting whether, even if the Chancellor really knew what monetary growth he wanted, the Bank of England would be able to produce it.

The emphasis was on a naively Keynesian view — not uncommon even today — that only government action in reducing taxation or increasing expenditure could set off processes that created extra income and jobs. They ignored the vital fact that, as Samuel Brittan pointed out, if this were true there would have been no significant economic development at all before this century.

Third, as today, worries about unemployment led to calls for rapid reflation, and these calls came when reflation was already potentially too rapid. Yet, with unemployment high, falling private sector investment was more than politicians felt able to stand. The consequent increase in public sector investment was destined to stoke the next boom, not smother the recession.

The one positive aspect of rising unemployment was the benefit that such a shakeout could provide. In the early 1970s, much hectoring had been provoked by consultant Bill Allen.

Coining the phrase "half-time Britain", he argued that the British gdp could be produced from the existing machinery with half the labour force, with the other half redeployed to foster economic growth. Such redeployment could come only if labour were first shaken out of existing jobs into unemployment and later into new jobs.

The *Economist* argued in 1971 that the recession gave such an opportunity. It should not be greeted by the sort of political panic in which governments insist on trying to shake all the redundant labour straight back into their previously unnecessary jobs.

The TUC has always seen this as its role. It seeks to recreate a nineteenth-century industry because the industries of the past are known and familiar: the industries of the future are not.

Despite the lessons of the 1970s, the pressure is still to develop yesterday's industries — coal, steel, shipbuilding, textiles. There is no similar pressure on behalf of tomorrow's industries — those connected

with the information revolution — computer hardware and software, telecommunications and video cassette recorders.

The fact that thousands of millions of pounds were wasted in over-expanding steel in the 1970s does not prevent the railway investment lobby from nominating the railways as the bottomless pit of the 1980s.

In 1971 speeches from Harold Wilson provided blueprints for Labour leaders' speeches today, and calls for a 35-hour week grew stronger. High and rising unemployment ensured that the unemployed were indeed "shaken back", largely into their previous jobs.

Finally, lags. The most important cause of excessive reflation was a failure to appreciate the length of the lags that operate in any economy, and especially in the United Kingdom.

Small doses of reflation were expected to take effect more quickly than was remotely possible. When they did not, the doses were repeated and increased. Ministers' advisers predicted that the mini-budget of 1971 would quickly reduce unemployment and panicked when, by the winter of 1971-72, it had not.

Yet the stimulus for reflation was already there — in excessive quantities. Inevitably they took effect, leading to boom and bust.

In November, 1971, there was a "bewildered debate" on unemployment in Parliament. Ministers' advisers predicted that the mini-budget of 1971 would quickly reduce unemployment and panicked when, by the winter of 1971-72, it had not.

gest ever monthly drop on unemployment and the trend to falling unemployment was firmly set.

Similarly, in May, 1972, there were worries about low industrial investment. Within six months a CBI survey saw it at unprecedented levels. Within a further six months the price of oil had rocketed, the balance of payments was in huge deficit and the boom was over. Its legacy remained in high inflation and renewed unemployment.

There is no choice but for the Government to pursue broadly its present policies at the macro-economic level. The lesson of the 1970s is that, in the end, any other choice would be even more painful.

The emphasis should now shift to making the economy more flexible: to loosen labour markets in order to enable more to price themselves into jobs; to shake up the education and training system to increase its relevance to the businesses of tomorrow and to treat higher education more as a marketable service and less as a form of charity or overseas aid; and so on.

In short, we should shift the emphasis to genuine supply side economics, in which we learn from past failures rather than repeat them.

The author is Professorial Fellow at the Oxford Management Centre and visiting professor at Manchester Business School. He is also an adviser to the Prime Minister's Policy Unit at 10 Downing Street.

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Geoffrey Smith assesses the extent of Tory disaffection

How strong is the revolt?

It is a long time since a Conservative conference was approached with such eager expectation. Generally they are rather predictable affairs, contrasting in their decorum and dullness with the fascinating chaos of the Labour proceedings the week before. But this year all is different. As the Conservatives have been gathering in Blackpool for this morning's opening the air has been thick with reports of criticisms and revolts.

The Conservative Whips have even found it necessary to consult members of the parliamentary party to see how widespread the disaffection is. Now at Blackpool, it is said, there will be the test of whether Mrs Thatcher still commands the full-hearted consent of the party for her policies.

But just how serious is the challenge, and what is its precise nature? Is Mrs Thatcher herself in jeopardy? Or is this, for all the histrionics, simply an attempt to judge Government policy a bit in a different direction?

It is curious how all these expressions of discontent have come at much the same time. It is tempting therefore to suppose that they have been orchestrated, that Mr Heath's frontal assault is linked as part of a master plan to Mr Geoffrey Rippon's declaration of faith as a devotee of the middle way and to the reasoned analysis of the young Eusebius in the pamphlet, *Changing Gears*. But that is not so.

It will be hard to move in Blackpool these next few days without coming across one or another of the party's luminaries calling either directly or obliquely for a change of course. Mr St John-Stevens is expected at a luncheon fringe meeting today to warn of the danger presented by the Social Democrats and of the need for the Conservatives to recapture the central ground, before he goes on to make one or two positive proposals in the social field.

Mr Heath will be trying to catch the chairman's eye in the economic debate on Wednesday for what will presumably be another onslaught.

At a fringe meeting that evening Sir Ian Gilmour will be offering his prescription, or more probably joining those who are proposing what is becoming a familiar list of remedies: the relaxation of monetary restraints; increased capital spending; reduction of the national insurance surcharge on employers; and British membership of the European Monetary System (EMS). Then later in the week Mr Peter Walker will be speaking at another fringe meeting.

Yet these are not coordinated activities. They could not be, because there are differences on tactics and on the causes of concern. Mr Heath's eruption on to the scene is regretted by many other Conservative wets because they believe that he has made it harder for them to attack Mrs Thatcher's policies without seeming to engage in a conspiracy against her. Nor are the others, apart from Mr Heath, combining their efforts. They are not even all wets. Some have for long been convinced critics of Government policy. Others have more recently become alarmed, principally at the prospect of losing their marginal seats. Others again have not publicly expressed their criticism but are known to be unhappy at the drift of events. The unease within the parliamentary party is widespread and considerable.

But it is a diffuse dissatisfaction, not a calculated rebellion. There is as yet no serious challenge to Mrs Thatcher's leadership.

A lot of glib nonsense is spoken about the Conserva-

tives having always got rid of a leader as soon as he has served his purpose. They have not. Sir Alec Douglas-Home need not have resigned the leadership when he did. It took a long time for his colleagues to persuade Churchill to retire; and the departures of Mr Macmillan and Eden were speeded by illness.

It would be a hazardous operation for Conservative MPs to attempt to throw out their Prime Minister. The whole ethos of the party is against such rebellion. It would be deplored by the party in the country, where there is also considerable unease but still much support for Mrs Thatcher. Pressure from their constituency parties has already been brought to bear upon some of the critics and potential critics.

So long as they can say that they are only arguing about the merits of particular policies, not conning against their leader, it is easier for them to placate their local parties. In most cases this attitude is genuine, not because they all love Mrs Thatcher but because those who love her least are most intent on changing the policies — and they believe that they would stand less chance of doing so if the attempt were mixed up with a botched exercise in political assassination.

Indeed, a number of those who have been attacking the Government on policy would quickly slide back into their bunkers if they found that they were being associated with a plot against the leadership. It is not only that they do not think this would succeed. Many of them are not convinced that a change at the top would help much. They do not see a successor who they think is capable of kindling the enthusiasm of the country, and even a successful deposition would be a very messy business. So Conservative hands are not so much feeling their fingers crossed.

But what if it is possible to force Mrs Thatcher into a dialogue on policy only by threatening her position? It is this kind of consideration that has stimulated the idea of possible running a candidate against Mrs Thatcher for the leadership at the beginning of the next parliamentary session in November.

If there is such a move much the strongest choice would be Mr Geoffrey Rippon, a senior and respected back bench who would not be vulnerable to the charge that he was contesting the leadership only because Mrs Thatcher had sacked him from the Government. But if Mrs Thatcher is challenged, which is by no means certain, there should be no doubt about the purpose.

In theory, Mrs Thatcher could be dethroned outright or there could be such a large minority of votes cast against her that she would feel it necessary to stand down. But in practice nobody would expect Mrs Thatcher to be dethroned. She is not a person who is easily abashed. So the intention would be to force her to compromise by displaying the strength of opposition in the parliamentary party.

The trouble with such an operation is that it could so easily misfire because by no means all those discontented with policy would be prepared to vote against her personally. Perhaps the prospect will look very different after the Convention election, still more if the Conservatives manage to lose Crosby to Mrs Shirley Williams. But for the moment most of the critics are concentrating their fire on policy because otherwise they might end up shooting each other.

Why the Nobel peace prize causes so much conflict

The Norwegian Nobel Committee tomorrow names the winner of the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize. The confusion on what the prize is supposed to be rewarding can be gauged from the short list of favourites: Robert Mugabe, a former guerrilla leader; Lech Walesa, who has undoubtedly contributed to freedom but could hardly be said to have helped lessen international tension; and Madam Alva Myrdal, the Swedish campaigner for disarmament.

Madam Myrdal's candidature is supported by 100 Norwegian MPs and she would appear to be the most appropriate choice. But she is by no means certain of success. Indeed she has been a failed candidate of the broad left for many years.

Of the five Nobel prizes, the Peace Prize, almost since its inauguration in 1901, has been the most buffeted by criticism. The Peace Committee — consisting this year of a journalist who was a Norwegian army liaison officer in wartime Britain (chairman); a lawyer; agriculturist; a former MP and Norway's film censor — continually

faces fundamental objections. Compared to the massive resources on offer for the destruction of mankind, the prize of £100,000 and a medal would seem a forlorn attempt to curb international delinquency. The other awkward fact is that peace makers have usually been involved in the wars they decide to cease.

The joint awards to Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam and Henry Kissinger in 1973 and to Begin and Sadat in 1978 led to considerable debate on this point. In the case of Begin and Sadat the criticism, at least in Scandinavia, was mostly levelled at Begin.

They were by no means the most controversial awards: the prize to Teddy Roosevelt, a bellicose imperialist whose intervention in the Russo-Japanese war was clearly motivated by political considerations, created quite a furore when the prize was only six years old.

Another factor which undermines credibility is the obstinate will to pretend that the committee is in no way influenced by current political preoccupations. The Russians were not convinced of

this when Andrei Sakharov got the prize in 1975, and the Argentine government was definitely sceptical last year when the prize went to human rights activist Perez Esquivel — particularly when the citation spoke of the use of extreme violence by the country's "military regime".

The problem may be that the Peace Prize was conceived in controversy and ambiguity and that its rules do not offer the firm guidance which characterizes the literary award.

Credible for 25 post-war years

Nobel decided to give the Peace task to a Norwegian committee at a time when the Swedish-Norwegian union conflict was at its height; the Swedes were outraged that it should be entrusted to "the separatist Norwegians". There is doubt — that is thinking behind it — was entirely Nobel's; it was much inspired by Madame Bertha von Suttner, on whom Nobel appears to have had at least an intellectual crush. A great campaigner for peace, she takes credit in her writings for having devised the philosophy behind the venture and she herself got the prize in 1905.

Nobel seems to have had ambivalent, and in retrospect, mistaken notions. So impressed was he by his own dynamite and its deterrent power that he wrote to Bertha: "My factories may well put an end to war sooner than your (peace) congresses." Also, he thoroughly underestimated man's capacity for constructing lethal monsters. He also had a curious reason for proposing mutually binding military agreements between nations: it would create a climate of security and leave governments free to deal with a new danger: the great social revolution. "A new tyranny", he wrote, "that of the dregs of the population, is lurking in the shadows."

During its early years the Peace Prize was largely associated with organizations for peace and international arbitration. It went to people like the Englishman William Randal Cremer (1903), who founded the International Arbitration League. Disheartened by the First World War, the committee made only one award in five years, to the Red Cross. Even that was criticized on the ground that the Red Cross was not necessarily against war; it simply bandaged the wounded.

The committee got back into its stride in 1919 when, perhaps in its most universally accepted decision, it gave the prize to Woodrow Wilson. But by 1933 understanding of the criteria had reached a nadir: two candidates that year were Hitler and Mussolini. In the following seven years there were only two awards, one to the Geneva Office for Refugees and the other again to the Red Cross.

For 25 years after the war credibility was maintained. Awards to two Britons were widely acclaimed: Lord Boyd

Orr (1949) for his contribution to overcoming world food problems and to Philip Noel-Baker (1953), campaigner for disarmament. Also widely approved were awards to Dag Hammarskjöld (posthumously, 1961), Martin Luther King (1964) and Willy Brandt (1971).

But the committee was not comfortable during the 1970s. It was accused of fumbling the 1976 award, giving it a year late to the Northern Ireland peace movement; hardly had Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams got the money than the movement began to disintegrate. Some detected cause and effect.

This week the committee was reported to have had to consider about 65 candidates. Those entitled to make nominations are MPs and governments of any country; the International Arbitration Court at The Hague; the International Peace Bureau, university professors of political science, law, history or philosophy; former Nobel laureates; and former Nobel committee members. Members of the incumbent committee can add their own candidates, whose names are secret.

Gandhi the pacifist went unrewarded

The chairman throughout the turbulent 1970s, and still in office, is Dr John Sanness, a man of 68 with an erect, soldierly bearing and a crisp delivery of idiomatic English. He is adamant that his committee never engages in polemics; that voting is

strictly secret, and no dissent is recorded. "You will not find a scrap of paper which relates to our deliberations", he told me.

"We didn't need a scrap of paper in the Kissinger-Le Duc Tho affair," I pointed out. "Two members of the committee resigned." "In that case the voting became obvious", he conceded.

"Some 'journalists', he went on, "have accused the committee of being farmers or Babes in the Woods. I have to say we have all had international experience. We have not lived all our lives in the shelter of the Norwegian valleys."

"A basic criticism of your committee," I said, "is that its members are appointed by the Norwegian Parliament. That is, by a political body to carry out a fairly political task."

"But the committee is not responsible to Parliament," he replied. "We never discuss the candidates with Parliament or with political parties. It is strictly between five individuals."

Dr Sanness acknowledged the Peace Committee's celebrated blunder: it never awarded the prize to one of the world's rare, pure pacifists, Mahatma Gandhi. Like all Nobel committees, the Peace committee canvasses the world for nominations. Did it send annual invitations to Russia and China? Dr Sanness was vague about this. His secretary thought they gave a letter to the Russian Embassy in Oslo. But they never got a reply.

Peter Lennon

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Howls of protest at the New York Met

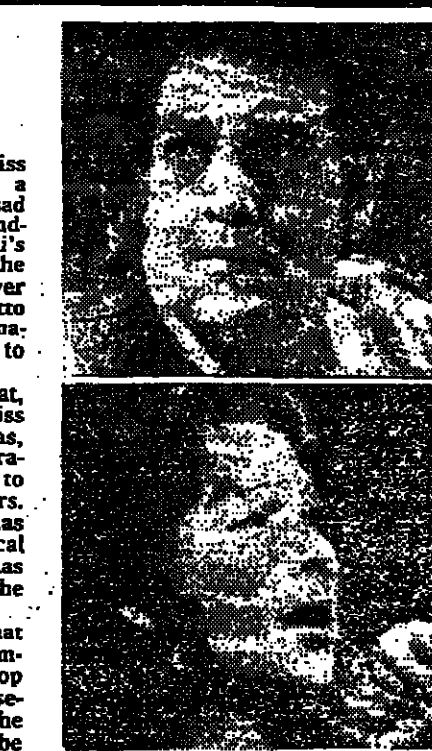
I hear from New York that Miss Renata Scotta has been given a devastating reception for her sad performance in that most demanding of all roles, the "Norma". I understand that the Metropolitan Opera has never known anything like it. Miss Scotta has been cruelly nicknamed "Renata Screecho", and to boo or not to boo has become quite an issue.

All music critics agree that, despite the clear erosion of Miss Scotta's lyric talents, she has, moved into roles that her coloratura voice has been unable to handle gracefully in recent years. Yet, so controversial a figure has she become that even the political columnist, William Safire, has dubbed her "the Al Haig of the Met."

The boos and catcalls that persisted throughout her performance of "Norma" did not stop there, however. Insidious nose-blowing was also to be heard. The protest, which happened to be organised by what the *New York Times* calls "anti-Scotta guerrillas", began even as she spoke her first words, which as it happened, were: "sedizioso voci!" ("traitorous voices!")

Double Domingo

Meanwhile, Plácido Domingo, who celebrates his tenth anniversary at Covent Garden next month in his celebrated role as Cavardossi in *Tosca*, will be branching out simultaneously into a new career. With EMI and Deutsche Grammo-



Popular — and not so popular: Plácido Domingo and Renata Scotta.

phon marking his anniversary conventionally with new Domingo operatic releases CBS is stealing a march on its rivals by issuing an album in which the Spanish tenor sings what are called "contemporary love ballads". His opera fans are unlikely to take exception to Domingo singing such modern classics as Paul McCartney's "Yesterday" and John Denver's "Annie's Song", but they may demur at

THE TIMES DIARY

Correlli Barnett, the military historian, tells me he has been surprised by the popularity among undergraduates of the new defence studies special option just inaugurated in the Cambridge History Tripos. Last week, when the new option started, the lecture was so full that there were even people sitting on the floor.

Yesterday Barnett (*The Desert Generals, Britain and Her Army, The Collapse of British Power*) told me that the new special subject — "British Grand Strategy 1933-1939" — encompasses foreign and defence policy, imperial relations, rearmament, technological research, and public opinion. He feels it could be an embryonic challenge to the hitherto unchallenged supremacy of Oxford and King's College, London, in defence studies and strategic history.

The duet he sings with the folksier Denver whose voice, though nominally a tenor, seems to owe its delivery as much to nasal as to oral cavities. Denver, who wrote the duet, also accompanies it on guitar. Domingo insists that the pop record is no radical departure from his operatic image. It merely resumes, he recalls, the role of popular entertainer he played as a child when he toured with his parents' travelling theatre troupe in Mexico in productions of *My Fair Lady* and *Brigadoon*.

The speciality is one of the fruits of the universities' appointment last year of Dr Philip Towle and Mr Barnett to two new fellowships specifically to teach defence studies. According to Mr Barnett, "until well into the post-war era in English-speaking universities, there has been a certain prejudice against military history or defence history". The popularity of the lectures may owe something to The Wilderness Years, currently on television, but Barnett says that the period does offer some fascinating parallels with our own time.

Citing as examples the problem of supporting a defence effort out of a sagging economy, and a strong unilateral disarmament tide in public opinion, Barnett adds that reading some of the official papers and discussions is rather like eavesdropping on Sir Geoffrey Howe, John Knox and the Chiefs of Staff grappling with today's defence planning.

Ready Teddy no?

Dr Desmond Axolotl, the GLC's new £60,000-a-year people's vet, admitted last night that he was "as puzzled as a parrot" as to why Ted Ted, Wormwood Zoo's ultra-rare Bex Lee Duck, has not yet laid an egg despite all the signs that the happy event is imminent.

"It is very confusing," said Dr Axolotl who in his spare time is a member of the European Parliament. "Clinically, all the symptoms

are there: increased babbling, forced laughter and hyperbole running at 30 times the normal level, which in any other animal of this genus would be a sure sign that something big was afoot." Meanwhile, Ted Ted is under round-the-clock surveillance by a team of 30 crack physiologists, psychologists and psephologists.

The Chinese have so far bred about 15 Bex Lee ducks in captivity. The creatures are believed to be a cross between the more common sweet ducks of Canton and the sour ducks of Peking. But Ted Ted has been making laying noises for well over a year now, much longer than anything bred in China, and this is what puzzles experts.

"Unless something happens soon," said Axolotl, "zoo staff may be forced to X-ray Ted Ted to see what, if anything, is going on inside. The extra cost, of course, will be levied as a supplementary duck."

"It could be a false alarm. I think the world knows that nine out of 10 Bex Lee duck liaisons end in divorce so that most of the young, Ted Ted included, are raised in one-parent families. That is why ducks lack so many of the social graces."

"If it is a phantom pregnancy, then it probably serves the clinical function of securing for the animal the attention it never had before. According to the Chinese, sea air sometimes helps this condition and Ted Ted has an invite to spend Ted Ted to Blackpool Zoo. If we decide to do so, it will of course be costly, and there will have to be another rate increase."

Peter Watson



He is now being cared for by RUKBA with a life long annuity and, should it ever be necessary, a place in a Residential Home or a Sheltered flat, but we have no pictures of the ever growing number of others like him who are in desperate need of RUKBA's help.

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FAITH AND THE TORIES

The organizers of the conference at Blackpool this week might take a leaf from the book of those who organized a grand gathering also concerned with doubt at Seville in 1484. Twenty-eight articles of faith were promulgated. Heretics were allowed thirty days to declare themselves. Those who were reconciled were merely deprived of all honourable employment. Feigned confession of error led straight to the public auto-da-fé.

Very much milder measures than these — a scowl from the Leader, perhaps — will see off most of the half-hearted heretics among the Tory backbenchers, but Torquemada himself could not now stop the development of the forceful attack on the Government's economic strategy from Mr Heath, Mr Rippon and Sir Ian Gilmour. They are right to persist. This is not because they have a wholly convincing alternative or that they represent a higher order of politician. Mrs Margaret Thatcher is the best Prime Minister we have got. It is rather because the air in the Tory house has become fetid. New thoughts must circulate. Unfortunately, given existing technologies, they have to be attached to personalities. This complicates matters when Mr Heath, say, makes a well-argued speech, but he is not to be disqualified or derided merely because he is a former Prime Minister. Nor did he personalize his criticisms in the way that Mr Edward du Cann, to name but one, has personalized the response in a manner that has become sadly symptomatic of attitudes to dissent — though he himself has murmured from time to time. Mrs Thatcher needs to be spared such friends. It is doing the Tory party a good deal of harm for it to resemble less of a Church and more of an Inquisition.

The message from the polls

The imperative for a more open debate in the Tory party has two springs. The first is that the economic policy is not so brilliant that it is manifestly incapable of refinement. Secondly, whatever the merits of this Government, it has lost popular support. In the opinion polls, it has been registering around 30 per cent — and well below that when respondents are reminded of the existence of the Liberal-SDP alliance. The Conservatives might, of course, recover from this mid-parliamentary nadir, as every previous government has to some extent, especially given the suicidal antics of the Labour opposition. But it is imprudent to rely upon automatic regeneration. The support for the Government, in fact, has plumbed the lowest depth achieved by any government since the war, and Mrs Thatcher herself is the most unpopular Prime Minister since polling records began. Indeed, she is unique in recording levels of unpopularity even below those of her party, whereas Mr Callaghan usually ran around 10 to 20 per cent ahead of Labour and even the derided Mr Heath usually stayed 5 per cent ahead of the Tories.

As an individual Mrs Thatcher deserves better. In view of her many personal qualities, the unpopular verdict must surely owe much to her vehement association with a mechanical monetarism which, to the average man, grinds on regardless of the human and social consequences. Sir Geoffrey Howe ridicules Mr Heath for having found a philosopher's stone. On the contrary, aside from the Labour left's idea of a fortress Britain in the skies, the only magic solution on the scene is the Government's belief that the control of the quantity of money in the economy can turn control the rate of inflation, whatever the other policies. Mrs Thatcher is seen to be tied to a philosopher's abacus. It has not, at half term, been serving us very well.

Industrial production is below not only what it was under Labour but is even below the level when Mr Heath succumbed to the miners in 1974. Unemployment has doubled. Prices have increased in double figures throughout Mrs Thatcher's term; at no time have price increases been as low as they were when Mr Callaghan was thrown out, and inflation has now stopped falling. Interest rates are at new record levels. Real incomes are falling. Increases in rail fares, post and telephones are about to be imposed. The Medium Term Financial Strategy with its crude limits for the growth of Sterling M3 even requires nationalized industries to raise their prices, cutting right across the drive to cut inflation. Retail sales are expected to contract. House-building has collapsed with starts and completions below the lowest unprecedentedly low levels of 1980. Public expenditure is higher than when this Government took over, as is the rate in the increase in the money supply, assuming that we can measure it. The balance of payments is unknown since the Civil Service strike, but is believed to have moved into deficit despite the massive and fortuitous benefits of North Sea oil.

Sterling has dropped well below the level of May 1979, despite the expenditure of 700 million dollars of reserves last month alone defending it, and after being allowed earlier to rise to excessive heights which crushed Britain's export industries. Looking forward to 1982 the picture is little better. The reduction in incomes and the recent extra squeeze on consumer borrowing will almost certainly kill any hopes of a recovery in output: it looks like being no more than 1 per cent growth, which probably means even higher unemployment and a still bleaker outlook for Britain's younger generation. Price increases may fall to around 10 per cent next year, and even into single figures sometime in 1982-3, but it is now virtually certain that at no point before the next election will output be as high as it was during Mr Callaghan's disastrous winter of discontent.

The interest rate fallacy

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor insist there are lower. Expectations are better. Productivity is improving. There is truth in this, but it does not begin to meet the point that these and greater benefits, economically and socially, might have been purchased at less cost, and that the present course inspires little confidence in its capacity to return more than small change for a massive investment. There is no evidence, contrary to the rhetoric that these policies have worked wonders anywhere else. High interest rates are not an answer to inflation; they add to industrial costs. They have long been manifest in many inflationary economies. Nor are they the sole equalizer between government borrowing and a nation's savings. There are many influences on interest rates — fiscal policy, inflation and the exchange rate included — but government policy is overriding. The government has belatedly decided to have an exchange rate policy as an instrument of domestic economic policy. But this decision has been hopelessly warped by the disorder in the exchange markets, which in one country after another has enforced interest rate determinations quite unrelated to domestic economic requirements. They have piled deflation on deflation. In his famous speech, Mr Heath rightly pointed out that internal monetary policies cannot cope with international disturbances (though to our taste his Europeanism inclined him to slide too much towards an anti-American posture).

Restive Conservative backbenchers do not have to follow

Mr Heath all the way, though, domestically he scores several bulls and a few magpies. What they must do is persuade the Government away from obsession with crude and uncertain monetary aggregates and, in particular, induce it to recognize once again that economic policy must be a balance of measures, flexible between a variety of conflicting objectives. This involves no sacrifice of Tory philosophy, nor even any dramatic switch from the Government's present strategy.

Three areas to debate

There are three areas for consideration. Without either abandoning fiscal rectitude or the drive on inflation, it should be possible for the Chancellor to rebalance priorities to allow for a recessionary or unemployment public sector borrowing requirement. As the Clare Group of economists pointed out yesterday there is no evidence this would "crowd out" private investment, but the contrary in this slump. Removal of this shibboleth makes feasible more capital investment, a massive training programme, and a reduction in the national insurance surcharge. Secondly, the Government should change its target from a domestic monetary target to an exchange rate target and join the European Monetary System, a small but essential step to the goal of international currency agreements. Thirdly, there should be an attempt to secure an understanding on incomes restraint. The Clare Group is on exactly the right lines in proposing a trade-off between union restraint and stimuli for the economy.

It is the public sector which above all must be restrained. Mrs Thatcher's policies have had success in the private sector where inflation is around 5 per cent but this has been undermined by public inflation at nearly three times that level. She should consider a public sector pay freeze for the current round. There should be strict cost limits in the public industries, and especially in the public monopolies which have so far avoided most of the pressures of government policy by passing them on to the suffering public in higher prices. These industries must be forced either to restrain wages or to cut their massive inefficiencies, or preferably both. With pay and public industry charges restrained in this way, the outlook for inflation would significantly improve in the medium term. Sterling should then be sustainable at current levels against the dollar with a lower general level of interest rates, which in turn would ease the burden of industry and the home owner.

Hope rather than pain

Nobody would pretend that there is a Good Housekeeping guarantee with any of these policies. But in the dead end which confronts the Government they and their variants are surely worth considering. That is all anyone asks and it is the absence of this sense of debate which is so sultry and depressing, allied with the constant reiteration of the theme of pain against hope. A change of substance is desirable; a change of style is essential. Mrs Thatcher has won esteem on particulars in her period in office — in Zimbabwe where she was flexible and in Northern Ireland where she has been resolute. She should not in her economic strategy any longer pursue a foolish consistency, she should take a little and in doing so, fearlessly spurn the injunction of that great Tory wit Mr Disraeli who said "Pray remember, Mr Dean, no dogma, no Dean."

Tax on wage increases

From Professor Richard Poyles

Sir, Perhaps the "tax on wage increases" is an idea whose time has finally come, but this is all the more reason for not ignoring its past. Your report of Mr Roy Jenkins's speech (October 10) tends to enhance the SDP's already considerable reputation for discovering the wheel. To tax each firm's profits according to its average wage increase seems indeed so obvious an anti-inflationary measure that it should have been introduced long ago.

Mr Jenkins is not the first politician, nor Professor Richard Layard the first academic, to propose a "tax-based incomes policy", even in this country. Mr John Pardon espoused it, and Mr Michael Fogarty wrote about it some years ago as did I. In the United States, Professor Wallich (now a Governor of the Federal Reserve) and Weintraub proposed it a decade ago. Versions of the tax have actually been implemented elsewhere. As one might expect from such a history, the substantial theoretical and empirical literature on the tax is not unambiguously favourable. Firms might pass on such a tax in their prices; it might distort the pattern of labour demand; it might tend to freeze relative wages between firms and penalize the efficient; it would be incompatible with productivity-related wage agreements.

On the other hand, by reducing the dispersion of wage increases across firms, it might limit "imitative" wage-push bargaining; and it would encourage hiring the unskilled, lower-paid workers (reducing a firm's average wage) who are hardest hit by the recession. The SDP might add something to what we already know by studying how such a tax would work with labour-managed firms (reducing a firm's average wage). Professor Robin Morris, who rightly suggested in your columns (October 5) that workers' control would be ideal common ground for the SDP and the Liberals.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD POYLES, Professor of Economics and Head of Department, Birkbeck College, University of London, 7-15 Gresse Street, W1, October 12.

Tricks of the trade

From Mr Chapman Pincher

Sir, Mr Edward Heath complains (report, October 7) of attacks by "the dirty tricks department", presumably located somewhere in the current Tory machine. Does such a department, formal or informal, really exist? I can find no evidence for it but Tory Party officials prepared to perpetrate extremely dirty tricks on Mr Heath's behalf certainly existed when he was the party leader. I could quote several examples but that most vividly in my memory concerns the evening before the day of the October 1974 election which Mr Heath lost to Labour.

I was telephoned at about 6pm in my office at the Daily Express by a Tory official known to me (no longer employed there) who asked me to come very early on the morning of the election. I was to contact Sir Claus Moser, then the Government's chief statistician, had assured a private audience of postgraduate economists at Southampton University that while Dame Healey, then Chancellor, was claiming that inflation was down to 8½ per cent it was in fact much higher and would soon be up to 25 per cent.

The informant, who said he was sure of his facts and was definitely in the Tory Central Office because I rang him back there, suggested that this information would make a superlative lead story for the Daily Express on election eve. He would have been right, but I was not I managed, only by minutes, to contact Sir Claus's office which assured me that he had been in Geneva for the past three days and had given no lecture in Southampton. Facts which I was able to confirm later from Sir Claus himself. I also learned that the Tory official had telephoned other newspapers with the same hoax story.

Mr Heath could not have known that he was being attempted on his behalf because he was busy in his constituency, but this and similar incidents suggest that he is ill advised to make allegations about "dirty tricks" in respect of the present administration.

Yours faithfully,

CHAPMAN PINCHER, The Church House, 16 Church Street, Kibury, Hungerford, Berkshire, October 12.

Preventing burial

From Mr A. T. H. Smith

Sir, In this morning's Law Report, *Regina v Swindell* (October 9), you refer to a crime that is a remarkable product of judicial inventiveness: Preventing a burial. We are told, is a "very grave" offence against public order. It may be, but it did not exist until 1972 when it emerged in the form of a prosecution for conspiracy to prevent a burial.

Now, it seems to be a well-established additional charge where the evidence of homicide is rather weak, and steps have been taken to cover up an accidental death.

The courts are not supposed to create crimes in this way; it is against the rule of law. Yet they do it, and our over-filled prisons are stretched even further as a result.

Yours faithfully,

A. T. H. SMITH, Reader in Law, University of Durham, 50 North Bailey, Durham, October 9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pressure from rank-and-file Tories

From Mr Patrick Cormack, MP for Staffordshire South-West (Conservative) and others.

Sir, On Friday, October 2, you carried a leader in which you made the point that the latest increase in interest rates was the last nail in the coffin of the Chancellor's economic strategy and advocated a pragmatic Conservative economic policy which would be based on, and not hostile to private industry. This, you suggested, would do something to shorten "the longest corner in the world which the Chancellor keeps telling us we are turning".

For some considerable time a significant number of Conservative members of Parliament have taken this same general view. Many have urged it in private and some of us in speeches in our constituencies and elsewhere. For very understandable and we hope best of reasons, we have been reluctant to take public issue with our own Government but now, as the Conservative Party assembles for the most crucial conference in its post-war history, we believe that the time for private protest is over. The party faithful assembled in Blackpool must feel able to debate our future strategy without fear or inhibition.

After two and a half years of Conservative government we believe that it is futile not to face the fact that all of our natural supporters, be they recent graduates, young couples struggling with their mortgages, small businessmen or major industrialists, have legitimate cause for feeling deeply disillusioned. We also firmly believe that only a Conservative Party is able to be that national party which could challenge their talents and meet their aspirations. Unless, however, there is a more sensitive appreciation of the economic facts of life as known to millions of individual voters there is a very real danger that defections from our ranks will be sufficient not to ensure the return of a new party which has yet to formulate any real policies, but of a Labour Government committed to the Brighton policies of two weeks ago, policies which would transform Britain into a servile socialist state.

We ask that people all too frequently vote against rather than for, and we know from our own experience in our constituencies that platitudes about keeping on to the end of the road, and even the scolding of voters, are no substitute for the sort of changes that you so cogently advocated and that are urgently needed. Yours faithfully,

PATRICK CORMACK, HUGH DYKES, ROBERT MCINDLE, DAVID MORRISON, House of Commons, October 10.

From Lord Harris of High Cross

Sir, Criticism by Mr Heath should help inspire confidence in Mrs Thatcher's central economic strategy.

It was his about-turn in 1972, that unleashed the massive inflation which has ever since dogged economic policy by disrupting wage bargaining, eroding profitability and thereby aggravating unemployment. To conceal the damage for the time being he rigged the price index (to 12 per cent in 1972) by holding down the charges of nationalized industries (to 5 per cent) with the result that Mr Healey they rose over 40 per cent in a single year. Even so Mr Heath, who now bravely this at high interest rates, was forced almost to double the Minimum Lending Rate from 7½ per cent to 13 per cent between July and November 1973.

Canada's Constitution

From the Reverend Desmond Kinnitt

Sir, Would an analogy from the sporting world help your readers, and perhaps also Britain's parliamentarians, to grasp the thrust of our Supreme Court's decision on the Canadian constitution?

A while back a controversial incident involving a cricket match between two Commonwealth countries was reported in our newspapers — remarkably, really, for we are not truly a cricketing nation!

If I recall correctly, one of the teams needed to score six runs from the final ball of the game in order to win. The captain of the opposing side then consulted with the umpires as to the legality of a particular procedure. The umpire advised that the tactic was within the rules. Whereupon the captain instructed his bowler to deliver the ball underhanded, rolling it along the pitch in such a way as to prevent it being struck for the necessary boundary.

Listed buildings

From Mr P. J. Purton

Sir, The type of situation which Mr P. J. C. MacKarnes describes in his letter published in your edition of October 5 has in the past caused much anguish, waste of effort and expense for developers and others.

However, for the future such situations can be avoided. In consequence of strong representation made by the Law Society and others to the Secretary of State for the Environment, section 54(A) was added to the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 by virtue of paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980. This new section provides that where an application has been made for planning permission for any development involving the alteration, extension or demolition of a building, or where planning consent already exists, the Secretary of State for the Environment may on the application of any person issue a

Pressure from rank-and-file Tories

The success of Mrs Thatcher's policy against inflation stands in the sharpest possible contrast. Although the present rate of price increase appears to be around 11 per cent, it is the result of combining rises in the competitive market sector of 6 per cent with rises in the government sector of 20 per cent. Under a Heath-type policy of concealment, the inflation rate would be halved at a stroke! Of course, the cost of such deception would be still more subsidies to nationalized industries, paid for later by increased inflation whether through higher taxes, borrowing or printing of money.

One moral is that, so far from being "extreme", Mrs Thatcher's Government has not gone far enough in exposing nationalized monopolies to the discipline of consumer choice in competitive markets.

Yours persistently,

RALPH HARRIS, House of Lords, October 10.

From Mr Philip Birch

Sir, May I use your columns to pose what I think is a fundamental question to the critics of the Prime Minister's economic policy? The engine room of inflation is the level of Government borrowing. How, therefore, can the level of inflation be reduced further with a programme of increased Government spending on capital projects? The answer is that it cannot. The two objectives are in direct conflict with each other, and politicians who say otherwise are being dishonest.

However, the Tory group of MPs writing in the booklet *Changing Gear* are right in one respect, that is that there will come a time when the emphasis should change from a priority of reducing the rate of inflation to a priority of more investment, but that time is not yet.

When the Prime Minister took office in May 1979 the rate of inflation was 23 per cent. It is probable that by May 1982 the rate will be in single figures, say 9 per cent. This means an average rate of reduction has been achieved of approximately 5 per cent per annum. Having achieved this by May 1982 she could then modify her targeted reductions in the rate of inflation to say 2 per cent per annum, thus achieving an annual rate of inflation of 5 per cent by the end of her term of office in May 1984. Under this strategy she could move to a more investment-type programme for the last two years of office.

Whilst this would not dramatically reduce the levels of unemployment by the time of the next election, it would have some effect, and coupled with the achievement of a 5 per cent annual rate of inflation could conceivably be recognized by the electorate as the beginning of a substantial recovery.

The vital ingredient in the change of emphasis, it seems that the Prime Minister's critics consider that the time should be now. They are wrong. She is not inflexible but simply following a planned strategy which has a strong chance of succeeding. When the change of emphasis comes I hope the media will not call it a U turn, but describe it accurately as phase 2 of her programme of national economic recovery.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP BIRCH, Ward White Group Limited, Hargrave Hall, Hargrave, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, October 9.

Our Prime Minister has similarly consulted with the judges as to the legality of his plan for patriating our constitution. The court has agreed that his proposal is within the law.

However, it has also very firmly added that such a unilateral action is entirely contrary to the traditions and conventions of our federal system.

The captain of that "offending" cricket team later contritely confessed that what he had done had been in the heat of the moment. Given time to think, he would never have so wantonly violated the spirit of the game.

Our Supreme Court has granted Mr Trudeau the space to re-evaluate what he intends, to measure also the lasting bitterness his proposed course will undoubtedly engender within all of Canada.

Yours truly,

R. DESMOND F. KIMMITT, 1169 Jefferson Avenue, West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, October 4.

Small world

From Mr C. D. Cox

Sir, I am profoundly disturbed to learn of the BBC's proposal to make its World Service transmitter in East Anglia "more directional", thereby preventing people in Britain from listening. For those of us who prefer a detailed coverage of international news there is no satisfactory alternative.

If this is to happen perhaps the BBC would consider providing a regular world news magazine programme (similar to *Radio Newsweek* or *24 Hours*, for example) on domestic radio.

Yours faithfully,

C. D. COX, 14 Devonshire Mews West, W1, October 7.

Plum in the mouth

From Mr N. C. a Brassard

Sir, I have heard Bertie Wooster's surname pronounced Worcester and to rhyme with rooster. As a mark of respect in the centenary of P. G. Woodhouse's birth, I feel that it would be apposite to know the pronunciation that was intended. Do any readers of *The Times* remember hearing Woodhouse say Wooster?

Yours faithfully,

NIGEL A. BRASSARD, 14 Mascotte Road, Putney, SW15, October 10.

A generation at risk

From the Headmaster of Clifton College

Sir, The Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University is surprised (October 10) by the failure of parents and grandparents to protest at the curtailment of opportunities in higher education. I am equally surprised at the silence of headmasters and headmistresses, with the honourable exception of the Headmaster of Winchester in his chairman's address to the Headmasters' Conference last month.

Of course one recognizes that some university departments in recent years have lowered their entry standards to maintain their numbers, while others (one suspects) have deliberately inflated their numbers in the expectation of government cuts; of course one must take account of the fall in numbers of overseas students at undergraduate level; of course one must recognize that in some areas there is unnecessary duplication of degree courses at universities and polytechnics.

Nevertheless, the scale and speed of the cuts is such that there will be large numbers of sixth-formers who a year ago embarked on A level courses in the expectation of following them at university and who will now be prevented from doing so, not because their performance has fallen short of predictions made at the start of the course, but because the hurdles have been raised half-way through the race.

One does not have to be a sentimentalist to feel that this is not only an injustice, but also a breach of faith.

Yours faithfully,

STUART ANDREWS, Clifton College, Bristol, October 10.

Dockland bridge

From Mr Brian Cassidy

Sir, I am sure that the news of the plan to build a bridge costing £102m will be a great boost to London's Dockland. However, why does it take so long in this country for these major projects to get moving?

You report (October 8) that the plans for the bridge were originally drawn up in 1969, and that the project is not expected to begin until 1987. Surely 18 years is too long a gestation period even by the standards of this country?

I have to confess also to a certain scepticism about the price tag of £102m. The experience of major public projects ranging from the Concorde through the Humber Bridge to the Thames Barrier shows that the original promoters of these schemes invariably under-estimate. If the eventual cost of the bridge and its associated road works comes out at less than £309m or three times the initial estimate, I for one shall be amazed, surprised and delighted.

As one who was for a time the vice-chairman of the GLC committee responsible for the Thames Barrier, among other things I make another prediction. The project will be endlessly delayed by the same type of labour unrest and industrial blackmail as produced the postponement of the completion date for the Barrie to December, 1982.

Yours faithfully,

BRYAN CASSIDY, Member's Lobby, The County Hall, SE1, October 9.

Farmland priorities

From Sir Colin Buchanan

Sir, In "Land of their Fathers" (leading article, October 5) you point out that three-quarters of the surface of our country is still farmed, and you say that its primary function must be to provide food and timber.

But this very farmland, Sir, is the main habitat of many other life forms whose very existence is now at our mercy. I would reverse your priorities, and put conservation of the other life forms at the top, and food and timber second.

This way a great breath of humanity would come into farming, and I dare say we would be no more than a few bushels of wheat worse off as a result.

Yours truly,

COLIN BUCHANAN, Tunnel House, Box, Minchinhampton, Gloucester, October 8.

Small world

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Yours faithfully,

NIGEL A. BRASSARD, 14 Mascotte Road, Putney, SW15, October 10.

Aid for poorer nations

From Mr Eric McGraw

Sir, I refer to your Annual Review (October 2) in which you outline the grave social and economic imbalances in the world which 22 leaders at the forthcoming Mexico summit will endeavour to redress.

Your 8-page report, nearly 20,000 words, omits to mention the vital subject of rapid population growth and the dramatic impact this growth is having on the world's poorest nations.

The 31 least developed countries in the world from Afghanistan to the People's Democratic Republic

of Yemen are facing the prospect of their populations doubling within the next 25-30 years. In these 31 countries fertility rates are high compared to the rest of the less developed world and very high compared to the world as a whole. Unplanned pregnancies, too soon, too close, and too many are a major cause of the alarming rates of infant mortality — more than 200 per thousand births in at least five countries, compared to around 12 per thousand live births in most developed countries. Of these 31 countries only Botswana and Samoa have in fact mortality rates below 100 per thousand live births. Fifty per cent or more of

the populations of these countries is under the age of 15, demonstrating the scale of potential population growth and reinforcing the fact that the 2,000 million additional people expected in the world in the next 20 years will be born in nations least able to sustain their numbers.

To deal with population without development is an insult to deal with development without population is a deceit and a delusion.

Yours faithfully,

ERIC MCGRAW, Director, Population Concern, Margaret Pyke House, 27-35 Mortimer Street, W1, October 2.

US steel 'will fight flood of imports' from Europe

From Peter Hill, Toronto, Oct 12

Pleas for a five-year pact in steel trade between the United States and other large steelmakers to avoid a lurch into protectionism were made here today amid growing tension and moves by America to halt the flood of steel from Europe.

US Steel, America's largest steelmaker, confirmed that it plans to apply for an anti-dumping investigation and imposition of countervailing duties on European and other steel imports at the end of this month.

American producers claim that subsidized European steel is being sold in the United States at up to \$100 a tonne below domestic prices, threatening widespread layoffs, cutbacks in production, and heavy losses.

Members of Eurofer, the European Economic Community steelmakers' cartel, most of whom will be named by US Steel, plan an emergency meeting here tomorrow to decide their policy.

Against the background of mounting pressure on the Reagan administration from the steel lobby, Mr. Frederick Jaacks, chairman of America's Inland Steel, delivered an uncharacteristically outspoken speech at the opening session of the International Association of Steel Institute's annual conference.

His message was clear—the American industry would defend itself with every means at its disposal unless imports were curbed.

Mr. Jaacks, in his address as the new institute chairman, attacked government intervention in the steel industry, especially in Europe.

He defended America's "trigger price" system, a mechanism designed to monitor the flow of imports by setting minimum prices below which imported steel cannot be sold.

He said: "If the trigger price mechanism collapses and recent developments suggest

that collapse may be closer than I think any of us want—the United States industry will have no alternative but to defend itself by whatever means are available, the potential adverse impact of disruptive imports on its efforts at revitalization being too great to otherwise."

He added: "Further disruption of the United States market should be avoided over the next five years since its domestic industry must generate enormous sums of capital through the private sector—unlike many other world steel industries—with which to modernize plant and equipment."

Mr. Jaacks said that if the EEC's efforts to cut capacity and eliminate subsidies were successful that would remove a major distortion in international steel trade. But, he warned, failure to lead to national steel industries invoking local trade laws, sooner rather than later.

Mr. Lenhard Holschuh, the institute's secretary general, forecast in his annual report that apparent steel consumption worldwide would be 7.5 million tonnes, reflecting a downward revision of forecasts made a year ago. Next year, institute experts expect consumption among industrialized countries to rise by almost 4 per cent to 380 million tonnes with most steelmakers believing that there will be a recovery from the recession next year.

But Mr. Holschuh stressed that the timing and strength of the recovery were subject to considerable uncertainty. For example, the British Steel Corporation, which is aiming to reach financial break-even by the end of next year, does not now expect demand to improve significantly until at least the third quarter and possibly the fourth.

Shipyards idle as 45,000 strike again

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Most of Britain's shipyards were at a standstill yesterday because of the third one-day strike by manual workers in protest at the closure of the Robb Caledon yard at Dundee.

Officials from the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service continued their attempts to bring the two sides together as more than 45,000 British Shipbuilders employees went on strike. The state-owned company said that about 1,000 more employees reported for work yesterday than on last Monday.

In addition to the one-day strikes the unions are also operating an overtime ban which is having a serious effect on ship repairing companies. About 600 workers have been laid off because of the dispute at repair yards on the Tyne and at Grangemouth.

Workers at the Vickers shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness again ignored the strike call but the unions said the response in other areas had been "quite good".

Mr. James Murray, General Secretary of the Boatbuilders' Union, last night accused British Shipbuilders of intransigence.

The 120 workers at Robb Caledon, who were threatened with redundancy because of the closure of the yard, are staging a sit-in. The unions claim that the management has broken an agreement reached in 1979.

Mr. Maurice Phelps, Director of Industrial Relations for BS, said the action was shaking confidence in the industry, putting jobs and job opportunities in jeopardy.

"That's no threat as far as we are concerned. It is just a fact of life. If work is not there, quite clearly employment opportunities are lost, and that is tragic for us and tragic for our employees," Mr. Phelps said.

The French-owned engineering firm UIC is to spend £24m "as a first step" towards modernizing facilities at its oil rig building yard at Clydebank, near Glasgow.

The plan was disclosed on the day it was announced that the company—which took over the former Marathon shipyard in the town early last year—had won a £4,000 award for the modernization of French-British cooperation.

There has been growing concern in the City at Imperial's poor profit performance and its attempts in recent years to diversify away from tobacco with the acquisition of eggs and poultry group J & B Eastwood for £40m in 1978 and Howard Johnson in America for £200m last year. Both acquisitions have been much criticized and Howard Johnson made only £2.4m profit in the latest six months.

Meanwhile group interest charges have been rising as a result of acquisitions. Imperial's profits rose 32 per cent to £87.33m and sales increased 24 per cent to £537m. The weak-

ness of sterling over the second half added about £8m to total profits. Glaxo attributed the increase to greater market penetration and better productivity in addition to the exchange rate gain.

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Dodge City founder will net £17m from takeover

Woolworth to buy DIY chain

By David Hewson



Dodge City, whose strength is mainly in the North-east and mid-Wales.

Woolworth, which announced a pre-tax loss of £14.8m to last July, is to buy the Dodge City group of 32 do-it-yourself centres for £20.1m.

The deal, which is subject to the approval of the Office of Fair Trading, will net £17m before tax for 35-year-old Mr. Richard Northcott who founded the Dodge City chain seven years ago.

Mr. Northcott began the company on a loan after seeing DIY centres pioneered in America. He now owns 85 per cent of the company, with most of the remaining 15 per cent owned by institutions.

He will be leaving the company if the sale goes through, but last night he would not say what his plans were. He said, however, that he would not live abroad to avoid tax from the pay-out. "I like living here," he said.

"I have other things I am interested in. We have been very engaged in getting the deal to this stage and I do not want to commit myself on anything until it has reached completion."

The sale will give Woolworth what it claims is the first national chain in DIY, with a

total of 81 stores from Aberdeen to Jersey by the end of the year. It already owns 49 DIY stores through its B & Q (Retail) subsidiary which it bought for £16.8m last year. The acquisition of Dodge City, through B & Q, will initially be financed by borrowings.

The chain will give combined sales of £80m before value-added tax and a total selling area of around two million square feet. A fifth of the selling space of Woolworth's United Kingdom high street stores.

Mr. David Quayle, chairman of B & Q, said that Dodge City's geographical strength in the North-east and Wales made it

complementary to B & Q, whose supercentres are mainly in the Midlands and South.

"The DIY market is already very competitive and several other large retailing organizations are entering the field. This acquisition will give us the size and strength which will be essential for us to be able to compete successfully during the 80s and into the 90s," he said.

Mr. Geoffrey Rodgers, chairman of Woolworth, dismissed the notion that the success of the DIY chains was likely to take business out of the company's ailing high street stores. The company was doing what had been suggested for so long

by the institutions by taking a dynamic approach to acquisition.

Both Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Northcott made rosy predictions about the future of the DIY market.

Mr. Northcott said: "I think there will be considerable growth throughout the 1980s. But nevertheless it is true to say that there is a lot of competition that there will have to be rationalization of that competition."

He confirmed that there had been other interested parties chasing Dodge City, and added that he could have accepted or bettered Woolworth's offer from other sources.

Despite a 14 per cent rise in turnover—3 per cent of it from acquisition—the B & Q DIY chain—Woolworth confirmed market fears with its disclosure in August of a first-half loss of £1,480,000.

This follows a £2m profit at the first-quarter sale. Poor weather and poor sales blamed for the poor performance.

Although its "Crackdown" price-cutting promotion has improved sales, the gain has been less than hoped for.



Mr. Richard Northcott

Britain signs £200m pact with Algeria

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

About £200m worth of contracts will be on offer to British companies for a four-year crash programme of housing construction in Algeria after the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Algerian and British Governments.

The contracts will be subject to agreement on acceptable terms and performance criteria.

This was announced yesterday by Mr. Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, when he returned from a weekend visit to Algeria to sign the agreement. No

additional Government financing element was involved and the memorandum was effectively a declaration of intent by Algeria which preferred government-to-government negotiations.

In addition to the housing contracts, which were likely to involve building about 20,000 homes, the Algerian Government was planning a big expansion of vocational training. This could present an opportunity for British companies because up to 30 centres were to be set up, Mr. Rees said.

Société Générale seeks to control mining companies

Brussels, Oct. 12.—Société Générale de Belgique, Belgium's largest holding company, is seeking control of the holding company Finoutremer and the mining company Union Minière.

The three companies refused to comment, although Société Générale said a statement was expected in the next few days.

Société Générale's bid for control of the two companies is part of its attempt to consolidate its cash flow. Three weeks ago it won control of Tanks Consolidated Investments, a British-registered mining and industrial investment company, which held 17.6 per cent in Union Minière. This

brought Société Générale's indirect holdings in Union Minière to 35.1 per cent. It also has 41.25 per cent indirect holdings in Finoutremer.

Meanwhile, Société Générale has been buying up shares in the two companies recently, so the full extent of its holdings are not known.

Trading in the three stocks was suspended yesterday at the request of the companies but should resume tomorrow.

Before the suspension, the shares of Union Minière were quoted at BF 598 (£8.5) and those of Finoutremer at BF 924 (£13.2). The market capitalization of each company was £8.5m and £17.2m respectively.

Imperial move to raise £100m

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Imperial Group is raising nearly £100m to reduce group borrowings through the redemption of its £87.8m holding of BAT Industries loan stock and the sale of its sharehold-

ing in Molins, the cigarette paper manufacturer.

Imperial has given notice to fellow tobacco group BAT to redeem on October 23 its entire holding of BAT variable rate unsecured loan stock, 1980-84. The two groups have had links stretching back to the beginning of this century and until 1975 Imperial had a 26 per cent equity stake in BAT which was sold off in stages.

Imperial is also raising about £10m from its 24 per cent share stake in Molins. Of the 6.92 million shares, 1.88 million have been sold to BAT, bringing its stake up to just short of 30 per cent and the rest were placed with institutions through

the market. Imperial's £25,000 £1.6 per cent cumulative preference shares in Molins have also been placed.

Imperial said the transactions were part of its policy of realising investments to concentrate resources on its core trading activities. The funds will be used first to cut borrowings and then to develop parts of the group.

In July, Mr. Malcolm Anson, Imperial's chairman, resigned from the group after 18 months after taking the £100,000-a-year post. His resignation came as the group shocked the City with a £41m downturn in half-year profits to £29.7m in the six months to April 30.

Mr. Anson's resignation was the result of growing disenchanted inside the company at its decentralized style of divisional management and he was re-

placed by Mr. Geoffrey Kent. Mr. Kent formerly headed the group's Courage Brewery division and promised a tougher grip from the centre on the group's problems which led to the profits fall.

There has been growing concern in the City at Imperial's poor profit performance and its attempts in recent years to diversify away from tobacco with the acquisition of eggs and poultry group J & B Eastwood for £40m in 1978 and Howard Johnson in America for £200m last year. Both acquisitions have been much criticized and Howard Johnson made only £2.4m profit in the latest six months.

Meanwhile group interest charges have been rising as a result of acquisitions. Imperial's profits rose 32 per cent to £87.33m and sales increased 24 per cent to £537m. The weak-

ness of sterling over the second half added about £8m to total profits. Glaxo attributed the increase to greater market penetration and better productivity in addition to the exchange rate gain.

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Stock Markets

FT Index 491.0 down 7.2

FT Gilt 62.20 down 0.49

Sterling

\$1.8720 down 2.90 cents

Index 88.5 down 0.9

New York: \$1.8650

Dollar

Index 106.2 down 0.2

DM2.1850 down 70 pts

Gold

\$488.50 down \$4.50

New York: \$444.75

Money

3 mth sterling 151.15

3 mth Euro \$ 151.15

6 mth Euro \$ 151.15

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Atlantic Resc 50p to 245p

Clive Disc 3p to 32p

Douglas RM 7p to 71p

Grindlays Bldg 14p to 210p

Guthrie 13p to 888p

James M. Ind 41p to 26p

Jardine Matt 11p to 142p

Kinross 20p to 75p

Lyons S. 9p to 71p

McLeod Russel 10p to 320p

Polly Peck 10p to 310p

Sotby PB 13p to 460p

Falls

AB Elec 8p to 106p

Churchbury Est 10p to 390p

Churchbury Est 10p to 390p

ETC 9p to 90p

Hawker Siddeley 12p to 288p

Longdon 25p to 400p

Milan 25p to 400p

Lex Service 7p to 92p

Manson Fin 5p to 63p

Racal Elec 10p to 415p

Stock Cove 10p to 330p

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Malaysia trade risk

Malaysia's virtual boycott of all British goods supplied to the country's public sector could affect a number of British tenders for contracts, including ones for hydroelectric schemes and up to two petrochemical complexes.

This was disclosed yesterday by Mr. Peter Rees, Minister for Trade (right), just back from trade talks in a number of Far Eastern countries.

The British Government had not yet been notified of the Malaysian plan to scrutinize all future Malaysian Government contracts with British companies, Mr. Rees said.

For the moment the British Government will wait to see how the scrutiny operation works in practice.

He admitted that the increase in fees in Britain affecting Malaysian students was a key issue with Malaysia but pointed out that the British business community in Malaysia was put-

ting together a scheme to make a financial contribution that would reduce the impact of the fees.

Mr. Harrison's Malaysian Estates is continuing talks with the Malaysian Government over selling some of the company's plantations to local interests, Mr. John McLeod, the chairman, said yesterday in London.

Financial Editor, page 15



Mr. Peter Rees, Minister for Trade

223 print jobs to go

More than a third of the 624-strong workforce at the printing company of William Clowes and Sons, Beccles, Suffolk, are to lose their jobs, it was announced yesterday.

A total of 223 jobs will go. Mr. David Stanford, the managing director, blamed increased foreign competition and the recession.

George Outram director quits

Mr. Angus Clark resigned last night as managing director of George Outram, the Glasgow newspaper company which is part of Mr. Tiny Rowland's Lorrho empire, because he said he accepted responsibility for the company's recent failure to meet its targets and for forecast shortfalls in profits.

Mr. Clark said he was resigning because he was not in a position to continue in the post.

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Plessey walkout

Nearly 1,700 hourly-paid workers at Plessey, the Northingham-based communications group, yesterday walked out in a lightning 24-hour strike over a breakdown in wage negotiations.

Workers on strike at Ramsones and Rapier, the Ipswich engineering company, yesterday decided to ignore a ballot organized by management to get them to resume work.

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Ferranti deal offers 300 jobs

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Three hundred new jobs are to be created by Ferranti in Manchester if an agreement between the British company and General Telephone & Electronics (GTE) of the United States is concluded successfully.

The agreement which is expected to be reached by the end of this year will result in GTE-designed private automatic branch exchanges (PABXs) and "intelligent" terminals being manufactured in Britain.

These electronic digital exchanges can be supplied and serviced by the private sector because of the British Telecommunications Act which came into force at the beginning of this month.

The GTE-Ferranti proposal is the first to create manufacturing jobs in Britain since the passage of the legislation, but it is the third agreement between a British telecommunications equipment manufacturer and a North American designer of a PABX.

General Electric Company (GEC) has an agreement to use the PABX design of the Canadian company, Northern Telecom, while Plessey has an agreement with Rolm from America.

Thorn-EMI is another British company expecting to exploit the new openings presented by the liberalizing legislation. The company will market Fujitsu modems for converting digital high speed computer signals into a form suitable for transmission on a telephone line.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION OF BONDS

Olivetti International S.A.

US \$15,000,000 9 1/2 %

15 Year guaranteed bonds of 1970 unconditionally guaranteed by Ing. G. Olivetti & C. S.p.A.

Redemption of US \$713,000—Redemption date November 15, 1981

According to art. 7 of Paying Agency Agreement and terms and conditions of the bonds we inform that the following bonds have been called for redemption at par:

52	1171	2874	4734	5894	8062	8787	9782	11428	12311	12950	13733	14291
151	1174	2880	4762	5924	8093	8778	9787	11435	12322	12960	13743	14300
186	1251	2937	4822	5985	8157	8797	9797	11435	12332	12970	13753	14310
221	1328	2994	4879	6042	8214	8854	9854	11492	12389	13026	13809	14367
256	1405	3051	4936	6105	8271	8911	9911	11549	12446	13083	13866	14424
291	1482	3108	4993	6162	8328	8968	9968	11606	12503	13140	13923	14481
326	1559	3165	5050	6219	8385	9025	10025	11664	12561	13198	13981	14539
361	1636	3222	5107	6276	8442	9082	10082	11722	12619	13256	14039	14597
396	1713	3279	5164	6333	8503	9143	10143	11779	12676	13313	14096	14654
431	1790	3336	5221	6390	8560	9204	10204	11836	12733	13370	14153	14711
466	1867	3393	5278	6447	8617	9265	10265	11893	12790	13427	14210	14768
501	1944	3450	5335	6504	8674	9326	10326	11950	12847	13484	14267	14825
536	2021	3507	5392	6561	8731	9387	10387	12007	12904	13541	14324	14882
571	2098	3564	5449	6618	8788	9448	10448	12064	12961	13598	14381	14939
606	2175	3621	5506	6675	8845	9505	10505	12121	13018	13655	14438	15000
641	2252	3678	5563	6732	8902	9562	10562	12178	13075	13712	14495	15057
676	2329	3735	5620	6789	8959	9619	10619	12235	13132	13769	14552	15114
711	2406	3792	5677	6846	9016	9676	10676	12292	13189	13826	14609	15171
746	2483	3849	5734	6903	9073	9733	10733	12349	13246	13883	14666	15228
781	2560	3906	5791	6960	9130	9790	10790	12406	13303	13940	14723	15285
816	2637	3963	5848	7017	9187	9847	10847	12463	13360	13997	14780	15342
851	2714	4020	5905	7074	9244	9904	10904	12520	13417	14054	14837	15399
886	2791	4077	5962	7131	9301	9961	10961	12577	13474	14111	14894	15456
921	2868	4134	6019	7188	9358	10018	11018	12634	13531	14168	14951	15513
956	2945	4191	6076	7245	9415	10075	11075	12691	13588	14225	15008	15570
991	3022	4248	6133	7302	9472	10132	11132	12748	13645	14282	15065	15627
1026	3099	4305	6190	7359	9529	10189	11189	12805	13702	14339	15122	15684
1061	3176	4362	6247	7416	9586	10246	11246	12862	13759	14396	15179	15741
1096	3253	4419	6304	7473	9643	10303	11303	12919	13816	14453	15236	15798
1131	3330	4476	6361	7530	9700	10360	11360	12976	13873	14510	15293	15855
1166	3407	4533	6418	7587	9757	10417	11417	13033	13930	14567	15350	15912
1201	3484	4590	6475	7644	9814	10474	11474	13090	13987	14624	15407	15969
1236	3561	4647	6532	7701	9871	10531	11531	13147	14044	14681	15464	16026
1271	3638	4704	6589	7758	9928	10588	11588	13204	14101	14738	15521	16083
1306	3715	4761	6646	7815	9985	10645	11645	13261	14158	14795	15578	16140
1341	3792	4818	6703	7872	10042	10702	11702	13318	14215	14852	15635	16197
1376	3869	4875	6760	7929	10099	10759	11759	13375	14272	14909	15692	16254
1411	3946	4932	6817	7986	10156	10816	11816	13432	14329	14966	15749	16311
1446	4023	4989	6874	8043	10213	10873	11873	13489	14386	15023	15806	16368
1481	4100	5046	6931	8100	10270	10930	11930	13546	14443	15080	15863	16425
1516	4177	5103	6988	8157	10327	10987	11987	13603	14500	15137	15920	16482
1551	4254	5160	7045	8214	10384	11044	12044	13660	14557	15194	15977	16539
1586	4331	5217	7102	8271	10441	11101	12101	13717	14614	15251	16034	16596
1621	4408	5274	7159	8328	10498	11158	12158	13774	14671	15308	16091	16653
1656	4485	5331	7216	8385	10555	11215	12215	13831	14728	15365	16148	16710
1691	4562	5388	7273	8442	10612	11272	12272	13888	14785	15422	16205	16767
1726	4639	5445	7330	8503	10669	11329	12329	13945	14842	15479	16262	16824
1761	4716	5502	7387	8560	10726	11386	12386	14002	14899	15536	16319	16881
1796	4793	5559	7444	8617	10783	11443	12443	14059	14956	15593	16376	16938
1831	4870	5616	7501	8674	10840	11500	12500	14116	15013	15650	16433	16995
1866	4947	5673	7558	8731	10897	11557	12557	14173	15070	15707	16490	17052
1901	5024	5730	7615	8788	10954	11614	12614	14230	15127	15764	16547	17109
1936	5101	5787	7672	8845	11011	11671	12671	14287	15184	15821	16604	17166
1971	5178	5844	7729	8902	11068	11728	12728	14344	15241	15878	16661	17223
2006	5255	5901	7786	8959	11125	11785	12785	14401	15298	15935	16718	17280
2041	5332	5958	7843	9016	11182	11842	12842	14458	15355	15992	16775	17337
2076	5409	6015	7900	9073	11239	11899	12899	14515	15412	16049	16832	17394
2111	5486	6072	7957	9130	11296	11956	12956	14572	15469	16106	16889	17451
2146	5563	6129	8014	9187	11353	12013	13013	14629	15526	16163	16946	17508
2181	5640	6186	8071	9244	11410	12070	13070	14686	15583	16220	17003	17565
2216	5717	6243	8128	9301	11467	12127	13127	14743	15640	16277	17060	17622
2251	5794	6300	8185	9358	11524	12184	13184	14800	15697	16334	17117	17679
2286	5871	6357	8242	9415	11581	12241	13241	14857	15754	16391	17174	17736
2321	5948	6414	8299	9472	11638	12298	13298	14914	15811	16448	17231	17793
2356	6025	6471	8356	9529	11695	12355	13355	14971	15868	16505	17288	17850
2391	6102	6528	8413	9586	11752	12412	13412	15028	15925	16562	17345	17907
2426	6179	6585	8470	9643	11809	12469	13469	15085	15982	16619	17402	17964
2461	6256	6642	8527	9700	11866	12526	13526	15142	16039	16676	17459	18021
2496	6333	6699	8584	9757	11923	12583	13583	15199	16096	16733	17516	18078
2531	6410	6756	8641	9814	11980	12640	13640	15256	16153	16790	17573	18135
2566	6487	6813	8698	9871	12037	12697	13697	15313	16210	16847	17630	18192
2601	6564	6870	8755	9928	12094	12754	13754	15370	16267	16904	17687	18249
2636	6641	6927	8812	9985	12151	12811	13811	15427	16324	16961	17744	18306
2671	6718	6984	8869	10042	12208	12868	13868	15484	16381	17018	17801	18363
2706	6795	7041	8926	10099	12265	12925	13925	15541	16438	17075	17858	18420
2741	6872	7098	8983	10156	12322	12982	13982	15598	16495	17132	17915	18477
2776	6949	7155	9040	10213	12379	13039	14039	15655	16552	17189	17972	18534
2811	7026	7212	9097	10270	12436	13096	14096	15712	16609	17246	18029	18591
2846	7103	7269	9154	10327	12493	13153	14153	15769	16666	17303	18086	18648
2881	7180	7326	9211	10384	12550	13210	14210	15826	16723	17360	18143	18705
2916	7257	7383	9268	10441	12607	13267	14267	15883	16780	17417	18200	18762
2951	7334	7440	9325	10498	12664	13324	14324	15940	16837	17474	18257	18819
2986	7411	7497	9382	10555	12721	13381	14381	16000	16894	17531	18314	18876
3021	7488	7554	9439	10612	12778	13438	14438	16057	16951	17588	18371	18933
3056	7565	7611	9496	10669	12835	13495	14495	16114	17008	17645	18428	18990
3091	7642	7678	9553	10726	12892	13552	14552	16171	17065	17702	18485	19047
3126	7719	7745	9610	10783	12949	13609	14609	16228	17122	17759	18542	19104
3161	7796	7822	9667	10840	13006	13666	14666	16285	17179	17816	18599	19161
3196	7873	7899	9724	10897	13063	13723	14723	16342	17236	17873	18656	19218
3231	7950	7976	9781	10954	13120	13780	14780	16399	17293	17930	18713	19275
3266	8027	8053	9838	11011	13177	13837	14837	16456	17350	17987	18770	19332
3301	8104	8130	9895	11068	13234	13894	14894	16513	17407	18044	18827	19389
3336	8181	8207	9952	11125	13291	13951	14951	16570	17464	18101	18884	19446
3371	8258	8284	10009	11182	13348	14008	15008	16627	17521	18158	18941	19503
3406	8335	8361	10066	11239	13405	14065	15065	16684	17578	18215	19000	19560
3441	8412	8438	10123	11296	13462	14122	15122	16741	17635	18272	19057	19617
3476	8489	8515	10180	11353	13519	14						

Japan business mission warned on trade gap

By Simon Scott-Plummer

The most powerful Japanese business mission ever to visit Britain said yesterday that it would strive to redress Japan's trade imbalance with this country but declined to give details as to how this could be done, or how long it would take.

Mr Yoshihiro Inayama, honorary chairman of Nippon Steel and leader of the mission, emphasized the long-term strategy of promoting industrial cooperation between the two countries in the form of direct investment, joint research and development, and cooperation in third countries.

The Japanese believe this would help to revitalize British industry and thus lead to better balanced trade between

the two countries. According to figures released by the Confederation of British Industry last week, Britain's visible trade deficit with Japan amounted to £594m during the first half of this year, a rise of about 45 per cent over 1980.

Mr Inayama said the mission appreciated the British Government's wish to create employment but added that the level of Japanese investment here would depend on the strictness of conditions governing job creation, exports and the use of local components.

The mission, sent by the Japanese Government, and comprising members of the Federation of Economic Organizations of Japan (Keidan-

ren), met Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State for Trade, before leaving for Paris on the next leg of a European tour. Mr Rees told the delegation that something needed to be done rapidly about the trade imbalance and gave warning that protectionist pressures in this country could prove irresistible.

Mr Rees suggested that the Kaidamen propose to the Japanese Government a policy whereby the public and private sector in Japan should study British capital goods and buy them wherever possible.

He also handed over a list of about 20 proposals designed to facilitate exports to Japan.

Reprieve for some training boards

The Government is unlikely to abolish all of the 24 statutory training boards, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday. He told a conference of industrialists and educationists that he was not satisfied that voluntary arrangements would be effective in all industries.

Mr Tebbit, speaking at the British Association of Commercial and Industrial Education conference at Wembley, said that the Government was still making up its mind which boards would have to go.

"There is little doubt that some boards will disappear, but I am equally sure that there are key sectors in which they will be kept. I see no point in throwing away a useful contribution to training for purely ideological reasons", he said.

Mr Tebbit said that there had been a disappointing response from employers in some industries to the Government's invitation to them to propose voluntary training systems.

Sir Richard O'Brien, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, said that it was his personal view that the Government would not be able to achieve its objectives of reforming apprenticeship and extending education and training to all the under-19s while widening training opportunities for adults without some kind of statutory framework.

Royal wedding brings back a five-star boom

No room at the top inn

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

London hotels, the country's worst hit last year when profits fell 18 per cent, are reporting a sharp turnaround.

Five-star hotels appear to be benefitting particularly from an upsurge in visitors from Arab countries, a valuable part of their tourist and business trade because longer-than-usual stays are involved.

But since the beginning of last-month an unexpectedly big surge in commercial traffic is helping to push up occupancy rates in less expensive hotels, including those in other cities.

So far there are no signs that the London hotels will take advantage of the improvement to push up prices and recover some of their squeezed margins of the past year. Room rates have barely kept pace with inflation and some tariffs have dropped 3 to 5 per cent.

The Savoy Group said yesterday that demand for its five-star hotels had been rising since June. There had been an upsurge in visitors from North America, with the possibility that interest aroused by the Royal Wedding had led to more bookings, particularly in August, a traditionally quiet month which was surprisingly busy.

At the group's Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge and at Claridges in Mayfair, bookings are being turned away with the hotels booked fully for several weeks. The Savoy



Manfred Pieper, full hotels from Park Lane downwards

Hotel itself is almost full for most immediate dates.

Trusthouse Forte, Britain's biggest hotel operator, has seen a sharp rise in occupancy in both five-star and four-star hotels in London since the beginning of August. Much of the extra business seems to be coming from across the Atlantic.

In the other cities, the biggest upturn has been among the mainly three-star hotels specializing in short holiday breaks. There has been a considerable upturn in these bookings compared with the same time last year.

Hilton International, whose flagship hotel is in Park Lane, London but which also has hotels at Kensington and

Garwick, reports a peak in occupancy since the beginning of the summer in the five-star bracket, with hotels further down the scale now seeing equal rises in occupancy.

Hilton attributes the five-star turnaround to a massive return of the Arab trade. But the weaker pound could have been a factor with other tourists, including those from North America, where an increase in tourism is indicated.

Mr Manfred Pieper, Hilton International's executive assistant manager, said: "Now not only are the luxury hotels like the Park Lane Hilton full but so are quite a lot of the hotels further down market."

IN BRIEF

Six-point energy plan agreed

A six-point plan by industrial countries to expand production of synthetic fuels could significantly increase their energy self-reliance by the end of the century, the International Energy Agency said in a report issued today.

The report, by experts of the 21 member countries of the agency, was prepared after decisions taken by leaders of the seven main industrial nations at their economic summits in 1979 and 1980 to cut oil use and to maintain economic growth.

Energy ministers from all agency countries approved the report last June. It says the equivalent of an extra 1.6 to 2.6 million barrels of oil a day could be produced in the form of liquid fuels and gas by 1990 from six alternative sources to oil.

Bus company study

The Dept of Transport and the National Bus Company have appointed Touche Ross to study the bus company's operating subsidiaries, current capital debt and its funding.

Footwear quota talks

British and South Korean footwear manufacturers opened five days of talks in Seoul yesterday to set quotas on Korean shipments to Britain next year. This year's provisional annual quota was 16.82 million pairs.

£40m rail order

West German companies have won an order worth DM170m (£40m) to build 60km of urban railway for the Venezuelan town of Valencia, a spokesman for Siemens - a member of the consortium said. Construction will begin in spring 1982 and take up to two years.

Renault jobs threat

Renault said on Saturday it would halt assembly on several plants at its Boulogne-Billancourt factory yesterday, laying off 4,000 of its 13,600 workers for an indefinite period.

France takes stake

M. Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, and M. Jean-Luc Lagardere, president of the Matra Group, yesterday signed a protocol agreement giving the French state a 51 per cent stake in the high-technology and media group.

More bankruptcies

Japanese corporate bankruptcies in September rose 4.4 per cent to 1,422 from 1,362 in August but fell 11.5 per cent from 1,607 a year earlier, the Tokyo Commerce and Industry Research Company said.

Mill delay sought

China wants to delay the manufacture and assembly of a \$460m (£245m) steel mill on order from a German-led engineering consortium, and not cancel it as earlier feared, a consortium spokesman said.

Retail sales rise

West German retail sales rose a nominal 4 per cent in August from the year-earlier month, but were down 1 per cent in price-adjusted, or real terms.

£6m contract

The English Electric Valve Company of Chelmsford, a GEC subsidiary, has won a £6m contract from the Ministry of Defence to supply radio wave guides for a new electronic equipment. The tubes will be manufactured in Witham, Essex.

\$230m ships order

Swedish state-owned shipbuilding group, said its Kockum yard will build four container vessels worth \$230m (£125.7m), for National Shipping of Saudi Arabia.

Oil unity hope

Opec countries are agreed that they should reunify oil prices on a base price of \$34 a barrel except that there is some doubt over the attitude of Venezuela. Prices are now agreed between \$32 a barrel and \$40 a barrel. Oil ministers may hold an emergency pricing meeting before the end of this month.

Business appointments

EMI Films' new chief

Mr Brian North is the new managing director of EMI Films. Mr John Kenworthy has been made managing director of McKee's Metals, Aldridge, from October 26.

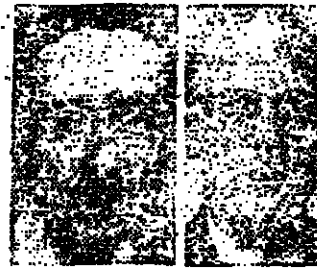
Mr Ray Russell becomes a director of the consumer division of Mitsubishi Electric (UK).

Major Lewis Turner retires as chairman of West London brewers Fuller, Smith and Turner, on December 31. He will be non-executive president and will be succeeded as chairman and managing director by Mr Anthony Fuller.

Mr Christopher Burnett has joined the board of Whitecroft. Mr Allan I. McDonald has been made a director of The Trust Union, PLC.

Mr Graham Tardiff is now president of Cambridge Reinsurance, the Bermuda subsidiary of National Sea Products of Halifax, Nova Scotia. John R. Kane and Mr Brian N. Coss have been made vice-presidents.

Dr A. D. Milne and Mr W. I. Smith have joined the board of Comptrols International. Mr Robert Froeman has been made group financial controller



Russell North

and company secretary of the Guild Group.

Mr John Beadle has become sales and marketing director, Mr Vic Hindson production director and Mr Ken Houldsworth personnel director of Freshbake Foods.

Mr David R. Newton and Mr Hugo Adler have joined the board of Chandler Wood (Insurance Brokers).

Mr Eddie Surville, technical director of the Birmingham company BKL Extrusions, a subsidiary of the GKN Group, has been elected president of the European Anodisers Association.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Building Societies hit back at banks

Last week the building societies bowed on masse to the forces of competition, and held their mortgage rate at 15 per cent despite a squeeze in margins. This week the Woolwich, one of Britain's biggest, is doing likewise on its own account, with a decision to abandon the practice of charging higher rates for larger mortgages, which it brought in reluctantly and with little success a mere 18 months ago. The Woolwich, of course, does not admit to beating a retreat, but rationalizes its decision instead in terms of a desire to treat all borrowers alike. But the fact is that the banks have cut such a swathe through the new mortgage market for amounts in excess of the £15,000 at which most societies start to charge in excess of the BSA-recommended rate, that the latter find themselves left with a disproportionate share of small loans, which are expensive to administer and do not provide the higher returns required to finance more attractive savings schemes.

The Woolwich solution is likely to prove attractive to other societies, although there are some diaphanous who believe that differential rates are fair, and others who maintain that they are necessary if life is not to be made more difficult for the first-time buyer than it is already. The problem is, of course, that the building societies still have to provide an adequate return to investors increasingly tempted by the goodies offered by the banks and the Department for National Savings. To do so it may be necessary, as the Woolwich hinted yesterday, to raise the rate charged to borrowers in general: so the net result of the introduction of competition from the banks may be that the average borrower will have to fork out more. But, of course, that merely reflects a small adjustment of the scales of justice in favour of the investor — who has subsidized the house buyer, for the sake of sale returns and easy access to his money, throughout the whole of the last two decades.

It is competition for funds, rather than competition for mortgages, which has triggered off the revolution in which the building societies now find themselves unwillingly embroiled. It is unfortunate for the building societies that the banks have started to fight for deposits at a time when there is no great demand for borrowings elsewhere: it leaves the banks free to attack on two fronts at the same time. But it looks, in retrospect, as though the building societies have had twenty years in comfort in Cloud Cuckoo Land: it couldn't last.

Harrisons & Crossfield Political problems

Politics dominate the future of Harrisons & Crossfield. It is one of the last great plantations and trading companies domiciled in the United Kingdom not yet to have felt the force of the Malaysians' determination to bring the natural resources of the country under their own control. Guthrie was taken over in a lightning raid that prompted the Stock Exchange in London to change the rules. Barlow Holdings and Dunlop then did swift deals with the Malaysians whereby they essentially surrendered control in their plantation interests in Malaysia though keeping a small equity stake.

Yesterday Harrisons Malaysian Estates, which is 80 per cent owned by H & C, produced results for the three months to June. The figures are almost irrelevant. What happens to HME, and therefore H & C, is the question. Mr John McLeod, chairman of HME, made appropriate diplomatic noises about talks with the Malaysian authorities continuing, though no percentage has yet been fixed for the potential Malaysian holding.

Mr McLeod and other senior executives at H & C should be listened to and believed, but the group has not achieved its position today and survived for so long by ignoring the realities of the business climate, either at home or abroad. And the realities are quite simply that the Malaysians have suddenly become extremely sensitive to anything affecting their relations with Britain. Speculation exists that H & C is stalling talks in the hope — well founded — that recent years — that on balance the value of plantations in Malaysia rises steadily.

Therefore, when they strike a deal, so it is argued, the net asset value of the group will be that much higher than it is now. Outside estimates put it at close on £10 while H & C's market price is £8.25.

The whole issue boils down to the amount of pressure the Malaysians can put on H & C to strike a deal. They are not in the same position as they were with Guthrie — they do not possess the same strong strategic share stake and their resources are not limitless. But they could make life difficult for H & C.

Glaxo Looking for growth

Although rumours of a large rights issue have had little impact on the Glaxo share price in recent months, the market was pleased enough yesterday to see its fears dispelled. Sentiment towards a company whose shares were as low as 180p last year was also improved by a stronger than expected profit performance in the 12 months to June 30. Glaxo's 32 per cent pretax gain to £87.3m against most estimates of £81m was sufficient to add 10p to the shares which closed at 404p. Even after stripping out an exchange rate gain of £8m profit growth was still around 20 per cent, so with sales rising 24 per cent to £537m excluding the Vetric wholesaling side, margins were little changed.

The growth derived from a combination of price rises, extra productivity and increased sales volume. While profits from Japan were higher, partly because of the weakness of sterling in terms of the yen, Glaxo also broadened its product base and witnessed higher volumes. In the all-important United States market, where Glaxo is expecting a large breakthrough in the middle of the decade, Ventolin, the anti-asthma drug is selling well. Like other index stocks, Glaxo's share price recovery is anticipated, but a couple of years hence. The profits just reported only take the company back to the level attained in 1977.

Glaxo has not come to the market for funding in some years and at present apparently has little need to add to the balance sheet. But Glaxo is still spending more than it earns in the United States and a rights issue in the near future would not come as a surprise.

Currys Hard pounding for retailers

Currys' report on the half year to last July clipped 2p off the shares yesterday, but at 158p the yield of 4 per cent is looking, as ever, two or three years ahead of when the expensive new ventures into television rental, micro computers, and discount stores pay off. Meanwhile, this exciting future contrasts with a mundane present. Sales rose 12.5 per cent to £122.7m in money, but not at all by volume. Price increases preserved gross profit margins and sales space went up by 1 per cent or so. However, pretax profits fell from £4.49m to £4.43m thanks to a £396,000 extraordinary item for redundancies; and an increase of more than half to £1.89m in depreciation combined with a fall of roughly the same percentage to £634,000 in interest receivable.

Both reflected Currys' massive investment in diversification, and a consequent run down of the cash hoard. The half time dividend is unchanged at 1.07p. Earnings per share were 8.0p and current cost earnings 4.4p. The group does around one third of its business in the first six months and the rest in the second half year. It is obviously concerned about dearer interest rates and mortgages.

So prospects for Christmas are wide open, though it is something that business after dropping in the summer picked up a bit in October. A big television promotion is planned. If, then, the group manages to earn more than 1980-81's £12.3m pretax profit, it will only be by a whisker. As before, the case for the shares rests largely on expansion into rental where the group has the advantages of ready-made outlets and a wide range of sets to offer customers.



Queuing to see a film in the early fifties when cinemas' popularity was booming and (right) managements today are finding it increasingly difficult to tempt in customers.

How long till the last picture show?

Cinema audiences may fall below the 100 million mark this year. David Hewson reports

A cinema seat in the West End usually costs between £3.50 and £4. For less than 15p a film-goer living in parts of inner London can watch 54 different feature films a month, piped to them through a cable television set in their front room.

A few of the titles — *Dogs*, a canine version of *Jaws*, for instance — might be overpriced, but the same cannot be said of some of the others such as *Gone With The Wind*, *The Deer Hunter*, and *Star Trek*.

The cable system is available to only 170,000 homes in London, but a good number who are denied it will have video tape recorders and belong to a club which supplies, for between £2 and £5 a time, tapes of recent films for home viewing. Even with the cost of the recorder, the price for a family of four would still work out at less than the average trip to a West End cinema.

So it should come as no surprise that, while British film-making is going through one of its more buoyant periods, the conventional film-watching business faces an increasingly shaky future.

Last June, the latest month for which figures are available, admissions fell by 23 per cent, nationally when compared with the same period in 1980. The situation has probably improved a little since then, with the release of a number of box office successes, such as *For Your Eyes Only*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Clash of the Titans* and *Excalibur*. But the historical trend, which has seen a fall in cinema admissions from 1,500 million per annum in 1950 to 101 million last year, is continuing. It now seems certain that this year cinema admissions will fall below the 100 million mark.

Like all milestones, it is an arbitrary figure. What must worry cinema proprietors more is the certain knowledge that the cause of the decline in audiences — television, home video and pay television

networks — will have an even more cataclysmic effect on their income in coming years.

Last June, the Rank Organisation decided to close 29 unprofitable Odeon and Gaumont cinemas, reducing its screens from 596 to 231 in the 30 years since 1950. With the video revolution still in its infancy, it seems appropriate to ask how much of the traditional British cinema network will survive until the end of the decade.

Part of the answer should become apparent within the next four weeks when the results are in from a price-cutting experiment which started yesterday at 16 West End cinemas with 53 screens. As attempts to improve audiences go, it is hardly revolutionary — the cinemas will reduce the admission price on Mondays, traditionally the slackest day of the week, to 10p. But in terms of the industry's traditionally conservative approach to pricing it represents a breakthrough.

CIC, the country's largest film distributor, which also owns six West End cinemas, suggested the scheme after a similar price-cutting exercise by its international sister company had shown promising results in Paris.

Mr Christopher Carr, CIC's advertisement and publicity director, says that the company persuaded a number of other West End managements to take part in the Monday cheap rate scheme for a month. If it succeeds, it could be extended to attract more custom for other flat parts of the week.

An interesting aspect of the

promotion is that it will make the West End cinemas taking part cheaper than some of their counterparts in the suburbs. This may explain why Rank, which has a large number of provincial screens, is not taking part.

However successful the scheme is, it will do no more than arrest the decline in specific areas of the cinema screen business. What is more, it does not reinforce the position of the West End screens as prestige venues with facilities unrivalled elsewhere.

A well-equipped West End screen offers a film shown in 70mm widescreen format, often backed by Dolby stereo sound. The difference between watching a modern, highly technological film such as *Star Wars* in this format and in a conventional local cinema is usually as great as the difference between a film on television and one on a wide screen.

It is this technological

AVERAGE WEEKLY CINEMA ADMISSIONS

	1980	% change 80 over 79	1981	% change 81 over 80
January	2.12	-12	1.89	-11
February	2.18	-10	1.97	-11
March	1.87	-15	1.59	-16
April	1.99	-19	2.28	+20
May	1.76	-22	1.58	-5
June	1.75	+2	1.34	-23

A quarrel that could cost Britain dear

A trading tiff that threatens to create a more serious rift between two long-established commercial partners has broken out between Britain and Malaysia.

Whitehall and the Stock Exchange were taken aback earlier this month when Datuk Sri Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, announced that all future government purchases of British goods and services must first be cleared by his office.

Both government officials and company representatives in London are unwilling to jump to any conclusions about the Malays' action, which was confirmed by the Secretary of State for the United Kingdom, Mr Geoffrey Howe, in a letter to Mr Mahathir's National Organisation, and will be supported by all 13 states. But the legacy of post-colonial mutual misunderstanding is evident.

British business men talk blithely of the Malaysians being "oversensitive" and "unused to criticism", while angry Malays in

Kuala Lumpur accuse the British of being interested only in money.

There appear to be three principal reasons for the breakdown in relationships. First, and probably most important, the withdrawal of foreign students at British universities was particularly hurtful to the Malaysians, whose cultural and business life has probably remained more closely tied to Britain than that of any other former colony.

Secondly, the Stock Exchange's decision to change the rules governing takeovers came almost immediately after the Malaysian Government agency Permodalan had launched its successful "dawn raid" to take over Guthrie Corporation in the space of three hours on September 7.

Although the Stock Exchange had been planning to change the rules for a long time, the decision to allow a company a week's grace to prepare a defence against

takeover was seen as a specifically anti-Malaysian move.

Third, the two governments are involved in a wrangle over whether a fleet of Boeing 747s bought from British Airways can be used to full capacity on the London route.

A further factor is undoubtedly the personality of Dr Mahathir, who became Prime Minister in July and is the first Malaysian leader not to have been educated in Britain. Authoritative sources in Kuala Lumpur said yesterday that anger was directed at British firms rather than at the British Government.

When tuition fees went up in Britain, a scholarship fund to help those caught by the increases was set up. But the British firms "refused to help fund it", the sources said. But in a similar exercise to support a professorial chair at an American university, American firms had been quick to respond to appeals.

This was specifically contradicted by Mr Peter Rees,

Britain's Minister for Trade, who said that a group of British businessmen was seeking a meeting with Dr Mahathir to put to him just such a scheme for supporting Malaysian students.

At the same time there is clearly bad feeling about what is seen as Britain's failure to support Malaysian aspirations. One sore point appears to be British lobbying for the International Natural Rubber Organisation (INRO) headquarters to be in London, although Malaysia as the leading rubber producer insisted that Kuala Lumpur would have been the ideal choice.

The sums at risk are large. Last year Britain exported £223.5m worth of goods to Malaysia, making that country one of our most important trading partners in the Far East. Three quarters of British investment in South-east Asia is in Malaysia.

The visit of Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, to Kuala Lumpur earlier this month was intended to set up major orders from British firms for aircraft, ships and equipment for the £2,000m Malaysian defence budget up to 1985, Britain's other main exports

are machinery and transport (£127.3m last year), chemicals (£30.6m) and manufactured goods (£27.3m).

British companies are also understood to be tendering for hydro-electric and petrochemical schemes and for power stations.

For the moment all British efforts are being concentrated on diplomatic bridge-building — which unexpectedly became the main feature of Mr Nott's visit. Yesterday Department of Trade officials stressed how friendly and constructive their discussions with the various Malaysian ministers had been, in contrast to Dr Mahathir's attitude — he insisted on talking Malay, translated by an interpreter.

"We must be cool about this", Mr Rees said.

There has clearly been a change in attitude on the part of the Malaysians, who face the worldwide recession with a confidence soundly based on their vast mineral resources — palm oil, rubber, timber and natural gas. It may well all require at least a change of tone on the part of the British.

Rupert Morris and M. G. G. Pillai

Business Diary: Trees Company or Against the Grain

John Rose probably has no pretensions to be a latter-day Robin Hood. But he would probably be quite happy to regard the Lords Mansfield and Ferrers as joint reincarnations of the Sheriff of Nottingham.

It is, of course, pure coincidence that Rose, who is leading the Labour movement's campaign against "privatisation" in the Forestry Commission, works in Sherwood Forest. As an employee of the commission he is one of the large minority of members of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers who do not work on farms. He has been president of the union since 1978.

Lord Mansfield, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, is responsible for the Forestry Commission estate in Scotland, while Lord Ferrers does a similar job in England. Lord Mansfield says that the sale of commission land will save public money from being locked up in long-term investment. Rose, whose union gave the original impetus to the Labour Party's confused policy for nationalizing farm land, regards the forest sale as a threat to jobs "Profit for the speculator and damn all for those who will lose jobs where there is little of hope of finding others" is his verdict.

Bottle party

The appointment of Detta O'Carthain to the new post of futurologist at the Milk Marketing Board for England and Wales marks a new departure in that powerful organization's efforts to turn itself into a business. The appointment of Miss O'Carthain comes only shortly after that of Geoffrey Eyr, joint assistant managing director of the Dickinson Robinson Group, and shows at least that the dairy farmers who run the board have cash to spare.

Bar has been given the new post of chief executive to the board, which is the oldest and largest of the five compulsory cooperatives which act as virtual monopoly suppliers of milk in the United Kingdom.

Bar says that Miss O'Carthain will lead a small unit "charged with looking further ahead than is possible in normal business planning". The board has good reason to want to escape from the present milk sales are falling remorselessly, butter demand has been dropping for years, despite heavy EEC subsidies, and pressure from imports like Irish milk and New Zealand butter is still fierce.

Miss O'Carthain is the board's second acquisition



Milk maid: Milk Marketing Board's Detta O'Carthain.

from the Unigate meat and dairy group. She left her job as group corporate planning executive there in April, about two years after the group had sold its 16 creameries to the Milk Marketing Board.

The farmers who lead the board realize that there is no future in simply dumping bottles of milk on doorsteps. Growth in milk demand is much more likely to come from manufactured products, like frozen cakes and chilled frothy desserts. The board has set up a division to make and sell such things.

Irish-born Miss O'Carthain joins the board after a 20-year business career, spent mostly in Britain. She is one of the

five independent advisers appointed by Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, to offer guidance on making the British food industry more alive to marketing.

She and Walker share the same outspoken self-confidence and the many worthy agricultural retailers who have served the board for much of its 48 years can expect to hear precisely what their new head of strategic planning thinks of them.

Her task will be made harder by a persistent belief in the food industry that she is Walker's agent of the month. Despite the denials of both of them that he has been writing her scripts, a speech she made in January about the need for a new state-financed marketing body for food has convinced many that Walker is using her to utter thoughts that would not be welcomed in 10 Downing Street.

DA, BA, LA

David Amos is a cinema fan who goes to some lengths to catch the latest films: he is a British Airways' marketing executive whose job it is to select those which are to be shown during the airline's long-distance flights around the world.

As such, he goes to the studios in Los Angeles four

times a year and spends the whole week locked up in darkened viewing rooms evaluating up to 20 new films each time.

Out of these visits comes BA's selection, based on what is entertaining, but hedged about by judgments on sex, politics, violence, and such matters as whether the film shows an airliner on the verge of disaster. This might not go down too well with businessmen relaxing with a gin and tonic for the long-haul.

Amos thinks that BA passengers would be prepared to take a less far-flung tour than the "A" and "U" certificate films which are generally shown. Amos's personal view is that although customers' personal tastes must be respected, 90 per cent of them would probably enjoy the ultimate aviation disaster film, *Airplane*. He is working on a scheme under which BA's long-distance flights will show four different films at the same time, instead of the same one in four different cabins.

Standardman

When I began ringing around to find information technology expert James Merriman yesterday I expected to reach him in some high-tech hidey-hole. In fact, I found him in his greenhouse.

Merriman is to chair the new information systems council of the British Standards Council, whose job it is to see that we get in quick with the same generally agreed standards on microchips as we have with chip-pans (BS 3456 Part III, Section 3.16).

Standards position in information technology today, Merriman told me, is much the same as it was in the early days of the railways — and he wants to see that we do not get shunted off into a siding as did the Australians.

"Because each state could choose a different line gauge," he said, "until quite recently the goods couldn't be delivered without expensive and time-wasting transshipment from one line to another."

Merriman, former president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, says that he does not want the same thing happening here with the electronic tracks carrying information, and adds that industry and government do not have much time to get it right.

Ross Davies

F. COPSON CO. LTD.

Results in brief	1981	1980
	£	£
Group Turnover	5,693,272	6,159,053
Profit before Tax	191,818	243,247
Dividends paid (after waivers)	29,400	25,200
Earnings per 5p share	3.83p	3.31p

* Group Profit before Tax compares with the previous year's all time record. The dividend of 1.4p per share is an increase of 16.6% on the previous year and is covered 2.74 times. Shareholders' funds now stand at a value of 44p per share.

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Nervous start to account

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Golf: Ballesteros kills a European debate stone dead

Langer sets sights on new trail

Severiano Ballesteros killed stone dead the debate as to who is the best golfer in Europe by his victory in the Wentworth match play tournament at the weekend. He had only one obvious challenger, Bernhard Langer, German trail blazer and he destroyed that threat with an overwhelming semi-final victory, before coming from behind to beat Ben Crenshaw in the final.

For reasons associated not with the game of golf but with sordid squabbles among committee members and company directors, he was not chosen for the Ryder Cup match against the United States at Walton Heath last month yet at Wentworth he beat two members of the American team, one of whom had put out a third.

When Ballesteros was asked at Wentworth who was the best player in Europe he replied: "Neil Coles". It was an answer that cunningly embraced a hint of diplomacy, since it avoided any comparison between him and Langer, a touch perhaps of malice, since Coles is a "leading member of the establishment here, with whom he has been at odds, and a barrow load of wit, since Coles, for all his enduring reputation, is no longer in the same league.

Yet all this should not mask the fact that 1981 has been a hugely successful year for Ballesteros, during which he established a record of £81,036 for official prize money. It surpassed by £15,000 Sandy Lyle's winning total in 1980.

Ballesteros won £35,154 which does not include the £30,000 he won at Wentworth, since the match play tournament does not fall within the ambit of European Tournament Players' Division (ETPD) tournaments. New to the scene, Ballesteros fourth place at Wentworth and the proceeds of a car worth nearly as much for planting his tee shot closest to the second hole.

But, Hispanophiles will argue, Ballesteros played in only seven ETPD tournaments for an average prize of £5,022 compared with Langer's 17 tournaments for an average of £4,767. Langer's supporters will counter with the claim that their man had a far superior record over the five occasions when both players participated. Their placings were:

Event Ballesteros Langer
French Open 2 Tied 3
Scandinavian Open 2 Tied 3
Open 2 Tied 39
European Open Tied 2 9
Bob Hope 1 Tied 18

In addition both players, by personally satisfying coincidence, won their own national championships. The single most impressive performance was certainly Langer's second place to Bill Rogers in the Open at Sandwich, a result that established him as the same as Ballesteros as a man with the character as well as the golf to reach the commanding heights of the game.

We are bound to see progressively less of Langer, just as

we would hope to see more of Ballesteros, now that his quarrel with the ETPD has been settled, or at least patched up in such a way as to produce a wary truce. Ballesteros is certainly unwilling to commit himself, too much to the United States, partly perhaps because of a series of humiliating failures there this year, but Langer is looking forward to that challenge.

Like Ballesteros, but unlike Nick Faldo, for instance, he has to weigh the cost of taking an American player's card, assuming he does well enough to earn one. Once that step is taken, he would have to play exclusively in the United States unless he received a special release or was playing in his own country. But his own country presents only one opportunity (Spain offers Ballesteros only two), whereas Faldo has more than a dozen.

Langer's Ryder Cup place opens the way for an attack on American circuit early in 1982 because it gives him free exemption and his position at the head of the order of merit will command places in the "majors". Beyond that, sponsors will be ready, even avid, to offer a place to a man who can add an unusual international flavour to their tournaments.

Langer is looking forward not only to a new talent but also to a new environment which provides much in the way of creature comforts. He took part in the World Series at Akron Ohio in August because of his position in the order of merit here and reported afterwards that playing in the United States compared with Europe is like the difference between a five star hotel and a three star hotel. They look after you so well.

It will be fascinating to follow Langer's progress over there and to test one's judgment that he has everything it takes to succeed. For all his average physique he will rarely be outthrust and because of his consistency he will rarely be outmanoeuvred through the green. His short game is sound and his putting, once the source of recurring nightmares, is now as reliable as most.

Three factors, the three Ms, contributed to curing his "yips" on the green: the method, the man and the means. He had to iron out a flexibility in the wrists, which he accomplished under the tuition of Willi Hoffman, a professional teacher at Ulm, near Stuttgart; he had to submit to the drudgery of countless hours at a stretch on the practice green, a routine that would have destroyed anyone with less than his total dedication; and he picked up for a fiver a putter in Clive Clark's shop at Sunningdale that seemed perfectly to meet his needs. One day "and" another, all three developments added confidence to his putting stroke and that was the final hurdle removed.

John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent



Europe likely to see more now of Ballesteros (above) and Langer, looking forward to a new challenge on the US circuit where he will be able to increase his earnings.



Photographs by Malcolm Clark

Law Report October 13 1981

Court of Appeal

Court has discretion over consent orders

Siebe Gorman & Co Ltd v Pneupac Ltd
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Templeman

[Judgment delivered October 12]

The fact that a master's order for the inspection of documents within 10 days is expressed to be made by consent with a clause that "in default of complying with the order the plaintiffs' claim... be struck out" does not exclude the court's discretion to grant an extension of time under the Rules of the Supreme Court, Order 3, rule 5, where the parties have not agreed to exclude the court's discretion under that rule.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by plaintiffs Siebe Gorman & Co Ltd of Windsor, Berkshire, against Mr Justice Farquharson's order of July 15, 1981 that the decision of Master Warren of 27 refusing to order that the plaintiffs should pay to the defendants, Pneupac Ltd, of St George Street, Westminster, London, the costs of the action and extending the plaintiffs' time for compliance with the master's order of March 19 for seven days be set aside. The order of Master Warren was restored.

The Rules of the Supreme Court, Order 3, rule 5 provide: "(1) he court may on such terms as it thinks just, by order extend or abridge the period within which a person is required to do anything, or by judgment, order or direction to do any act in any proceedings."

Mr Patrick Phillips, QC and Mrs Anyadike-Danes for the plaintiffs; Mr Christopher Bathurst, QC and Mr John Baldwin for the defendants.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case which concerned consent orders was of much interest to practitioners. Sixty years ago, in 1920, the plaintiffs claimed £159,281 in respect of goods detained. After the "close of pleadings, with a defence and counter-claim, the defendants took out a summons for the discovery of specific documents. The return date was March 10, 1981. It was the first application for specific documents.

The summons asked for discovery of the documents within 10 days "and that in default of complying with the order the plaintiffs' claim against the defendants be struck out." When the summons was due to be heard, solicitors on each side went before the master. The defendants' solicitors' affidavit as to what happened stated that just before attending before the master it was expressly agreed that in return for the plaintiffs consenting to an order, the master would be requested to order the time period of 10 days to run from the date of the mutual inspection of documents.

The master's order of March 10, 1981 said that "by consent it is ordered that the plaintiffs' claim within 10 days from inspection, file an affidavit, and concluded with the default clause. On March 26, 1981, the plaintiffs' solicitors

asked for a further three weeks' extension as the trial date was not until March, 1982. The defendants' solicitors replied on March 22 saying that inspection had taken place on March 16 and counsel had advised that the plaintiffs' claim had been struck out.

The plaintiffs took out a summons for the extension of time after the defendants' summons for costs. Master Warren gave the plaintiffs seven days to comply with the order of March 10 and dismissed the defendants' summons.

On appeal the judge had thought that a "consent order" meant that there was an agreement which was binding, that effect had to be given to it and that the action should be struck out.

It was time that it was made clear that an order such as had been made in the present case in many cases did not evidence a contract at all. Lord Greene, Master of the Rolls in *Chandler v. Nelson* (1942) 2 KB 321, 324, pointed out the great difference between the consent order in the technical sense and an order which embodies provisions to which neither party objects. "In every case it was a question whether there was a real contract or an order to which neither side objected." *Chandler v. Nelson* (1942) 2 KB 321, 324, 328. There was a contract with which the court would not interfere.

There were a number of cases culminating in *Chanel Ltd v F. W.*

Woodworth & Co Ltd ([1981] 1 WLR 485) which could and should be explained on the basis that there was a real contract between the parties.

But in the present case the order headed "by consent" was not a true contract, but a case where one party was not objecting to the order sought as often happened in the "bear garden". Where parties agreed to an order of the court, or did not object, the order provisions were always subject to Order 3, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. Master Warren had acted as all masters would have done.

LORD JUSTICE EVELEIGH, agreeing, said that he was not satisfied that the parties had agreed to exclude the court's discretion to give further time under Order 3, rule 5.

The order being by consent was unappealable but that did not mean that the power of the court under that rule was excluded.

LORD JUSTICE TEMPLEMAN, also agreeing, said that the conversation outside the court, which was intended to create, and did not create, a binding contract; and it did not oust the court's jurisdiction to grant an extension of time.

His Lordship deplored the attempt to turn a casual conversation outside the court into a binding contract.

Solicitors: Ashurst Morris Crisp & Co; Mortimer Rabin & Co.

Welfare reports in custody cases

Cadman v Cadman
Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Oliver and Mr Justice Purchas

[Judgment delivered October 9]

It was doubtful whether jurisdiction existed in a custody case for the court to appoint a social worker from outside the court welfare service. The court should not depart from the usual practice of relying on the court welfare officer's report.

That view was expressed by the Court of Appeal in an appeal by a mother from an order of Judge McLellan, sitting at Portsmouth County Court on September 28, 1981, who gave custody of the child of the marriage to the father. Their Lordships ordered a re-hearing of the case by a judge of the Family Division of the High Court in London.

Mr Gary Fawcett for the mother; Mr J. R. Burnfield for the father.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that the judge had expressed his opinion of the mother in unusually explicit language in another earlier judgment which concerned the mother's appli-

cation for an outer injunction. Whether or not his mind was affected by his unsatisfactory view of the mother, the court felt that the custody issue had not been dealt with properly.

Another worrying aspect of the case was that no fewer than three court welfare officers had become involved. Primarily, the welfare officer was a Mrs Gonzalez who had been supervising the child fortnightly for a year. She and another court welfare officer made reports which, although sympathetic to the father, indicated that the mother was coping satisfactorily with the child and that there was no basis for removing the child from the mother.

The father was dissatisfied. He felt that the court welfare officers were biased in the mother's favour. An application was made on his behalf for the introduction of an independent social worker into the case. The judge ordered that a report be prepared by an independent social worker. He further ordered that a welfare report on the child be prepared by another court welfare officer, who was the third to be involved.

He submitted a report which was consistent with those made by the other two court welfare officers.

Mr Fawcett, for the mother, understandably objected to the application for an independent social worker. There was no basis for suggesting that any of the three court welfare officers were acting other than in an independent capacity. There was no justification for departing from the usual practice of relying on the reports of the court welfare officers. The case was certainly not one for the appointment of an independent social worker. To do so was wholly to misconceive the role of the court welfare officer who was appointed to help the court. It was highly doubtful whether the judge had jurisdiction to appoint anyone other than the court welfare officer.

There was no power to order the other party to be examined by an independent social worker. The mother could rightly have refused to have anything to do with the social worker but, in view of the form of the order, she had no option but to submit.

The father's solicitors had obtained the name of the social worker concerned from an

organization and given it to the judge. The mother was not asked to consent and that resulted in the father being made. It was very embarrassing because the father's solicitors instructed the social worker unilaterally. That was objectionable.

His Lordship hoped that the practice would not be repeated but, if that extraordinary step had to be followed, at the very least instructions should be given jointly by both solicitors and agreed by both parties.

The independent social worker's report tipped the scales against the mother. It was based on one interview lasting three hours. That compared with the experience of Mrs Gonzalez and the other court welfare officers who had known the mother and child for some time. The result was that, however one looked at the case, the judge's decision was arrived at in an entirely unsatisfactory way. The only course was to order a re-hearing of the case.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER and Mr Justice PURCHAS agreed.

Solicitors: Coffin Mew & Co, Fareham; Cousins, Burbridge & Connor, Portsmouth.

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A very competitive salary and other usual benefits will be offered.

RTZ

Please write, giving details of career to date, or telephone for an application form to: David Westcott, The Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation, 6 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LD. Tel: 01-930 2399.

Principal Solicitor

£12,594-£13,782

As a Solicitor who has been admitted for at least three years and who wishes to further his/her professional and managerial experience in a demanding public service environment, we would like you to seriously consider the advantages of working within the Litigation and Advice Division of our Council's legal service.

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Bexley London Borough

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£18,000 negotiable

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JEWELS Cat. (10 illus.) £2

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Cat. £1

Chester, Cheshire

Sotheby's Chester
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Wednesday 21st October at 11 am and 2.30 pm
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Thursday 22nd October at 11.30 am and 2.30 pm
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The Law Society

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£10,492-£15,798 p.a.

A vacancy exists for a solicitor on the staff of the Contentious Business Department of The Law Society. He/she will be expected, in particular, to assist in servicing the Contentious Business Committee and its many sub-committees, the Standing Committee on Criminal Law and the Family Law Committee and to examine, research and comment on new legislation in these fields.

Applicants, (preferably aged 30-40 years), will need to have a sound knowledge of litigation practice and procedure and preferably have some knowledge of costs. They should be able to deal with MPs, officials of government departments, members of the profession, the press and the public. Experience as

an advocate will be an advantage and the ability to write memoranda for publication is essential.

Depending on age and experience an appointment will be made within the above salary range, not necessarily at the minimum.

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Applications giving full educational, career and personal details should be addressed to the Personnel Manager, The Law Society, 113, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL, to arrive not later than the 23rd October, 1981.

Phillips

Tuesday, 13 October, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART
Tuesday, 13 October, 1.30 p.m.
ANTIQUE AND MODERN JEWELLERY
Wednesday, 14 October, 11 a.m.
ORIENTAL CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART
Wednesday, 14 October, 12 noon
COLLECTORS ITEMS
Viewing: Day prior 9 a.m.-4.30 p.m. and Morning of sale until 11 a.m.
Illustrated Catalogue £1 by post
Thursday, 15 October, 11 a.m.
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Illustrated Catalogue £1.25 by post
Thursday, 15 October, 2 p.m.
SCRIPHOLOGY
Friday, 16 October, 11 a.m.
SILVER AND PLATE
Monday, 19 October, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND OBJECTS
Monday, 19 October, 11 a.m.
FINE WATERCOLOURS AND DRAWINGS
Illustrated Catalogue £3.50 by post
Tuesday, 20 October, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS, WORKS OF ART AND
FEWTER
Tuesday, 20 October, 1.30 p.m.
ANTIQUE AND MODERN JEWELLERY
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A fine English
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Including sets of
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drinking glasses; a
collection of first
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Meissen; 350 lots.

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also on page 22

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Catalogue £4.

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Catalogue £3.50.

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October at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
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Thursday, 15 October at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.
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and Thursday, 22 October at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
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AND 19TH CENTURIES, METALWORK, CLOCKS,
SCULPTURE, OBJECTS OF ART, SCIENTIFIC AND
NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS. Catalogue £3.50.

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Thursday, 15 October at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.
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CENTURY. COINS OF THE TWO SICILIES AND
IMPORTANT PAPER MEDALS. Catalogue £2.

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